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CROQUET

Contact Addresses

CA Secretary: Tony Antenen, The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR. Tel: 071-736-3148.

Editor: Chris Hudson, The Oaklands, Englesea Brook, Near Crewe, Cheshire CW2 5QW. Tel: 0270-820296.

Advertising: Brian Bucknall, Moonrakers, Goring Road, Woodcote, Reading, Berks. RG8 0QE, Tel: 0491-681746.

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Cover Photo: Bowdon's Liz Taylor-Webb and Martin Quayle pose for a photo after making their 'commercial' for Granada TV.

Editorial Team

EditorChris Hudson
CoachingBill Lamb
FeaturesAllen Parker
PicturesChris Hudson
AdvertisingBrian Bucknall

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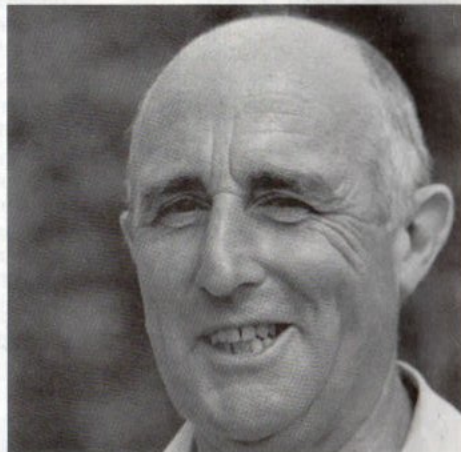
New CA Secretary Appointed Mr L.W.D. Antenen

'Tony' Antenen has been appointed as Secretary of the Croquet Association and takes up his duties from 1st September. Brian Macmillan is leaving at the end of December, and Tony and Brian will therefore have a 4-month over-lap period.

Tony was born in Morecambe, Lancashire. Aged 58, he served in the army for 30 years, from 1949 to 1979, first in the Royal Army Service Corps, then the Ordnance Corps, and finally the Royal Army Education Corps.

Leaving the army as a Captain, he worked briefly for the Coates Group before joining the Commonwealth Telecommunications Bureau, set up to sort out tariff charges between Commonwealth countries as international communications expanded. As Secretariat Officer and Senior Project Officer, Tony travelled extensively, and was involved with training and development activities.

Tony is primarily a rugger enthusiast, but also played cricket, tennis, and squash in the army, as well as shooting. He is keen on reading and music, and keeps himself in trim by running. He regards good communications within the CA as one of his top priorities, and has already visited Bowdon and Hunstanton to find out for himself how croquet clubs



Tony Antenen, our new Secretary.

operate. In the next few months, he hopes to visit other clubs to establish personal contact with their members.

We welcome him on board and wish him every success and happiness in his new post.

Over 1000 affiliate members already enrolled as CA scheme goes ahead

Members of 42 registered clubs are now fully enrolled as Affiliate Members of the Croquet Association, and by the time the scheme has been extended to all clubs, the Croquet Association expects to increase its total membership by about 3500.

The Affiliation scheme costs registered clubs no extra, but provides benefits to their members who are not yet Associate members of the CA. These benefits are:

On enrolment, one introductory issue of 'Croquet News', containing a list of the season's major fixtures, courses, etc.

A discount on the annual subscription to 'Croquet News', published 4 times a year.

Free or discounted entry to venues staging selected CA events (on production of their membership card). Details of each event will be published in 'Croquet News'.

A reduced entry fee for the 1991 Croquet Classic. Eligibility to compete for the Golf Croquet Cups.

In addition, Affiliate members may purchase an Affiliate's Tie or Brooch (Blue or Green, with Gold CA Logo - prices on application).

The aims of the Croquet Association are to encourage the playing of croquet at all levels.

Clubs make significant savings on insurance under CA Master Policy

Twelve clubs have now taken advantage of the CA's Public Liability Insurance Scheme, whereby they can obtain up to £2,000,000 cover for an annual premium of £20 through the CA's Master Policy.

In several cases, clubs have saved over £60 on their previous insurance premiums; other clubs have taken out insurance for the first time as a worthwhile precaution in the current climate.

Clubs taking out cover can obtain a copy of the CA Master Policy from the CA Office on payment of a £1 administration fee.

In some cases, existing insurance packages for club premises provide an element of Public Liability Insurance, but this is often only in respect of the premises themselves. Such packages often do not cover any activity of the club occurring outside of

the premises and consequently they exclude any liability which may be incurred whilst participating in the sport or using other premises.

The Public Liability Insurance cover arranged by the Croquet Association includes liability to the public at large plus Member to Member, Leased or Rented Premises, Trespass, Nuisance and the like, and is extended to include Liability arising out of advice, Libel and Slander plus Errors or Omissions which result in financial loss - all of which would fall outside any Premises Liability Insurance.

Employers Liability Insurance is now available through the CA, and we are investigating the possibility of a Master Policy to insure contents of buildings. If you would like further details, please contact Chris Hudson (tel: 0270-820296).

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CROQUET



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News & Views

Championship Reports

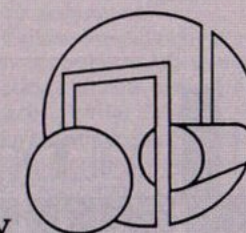
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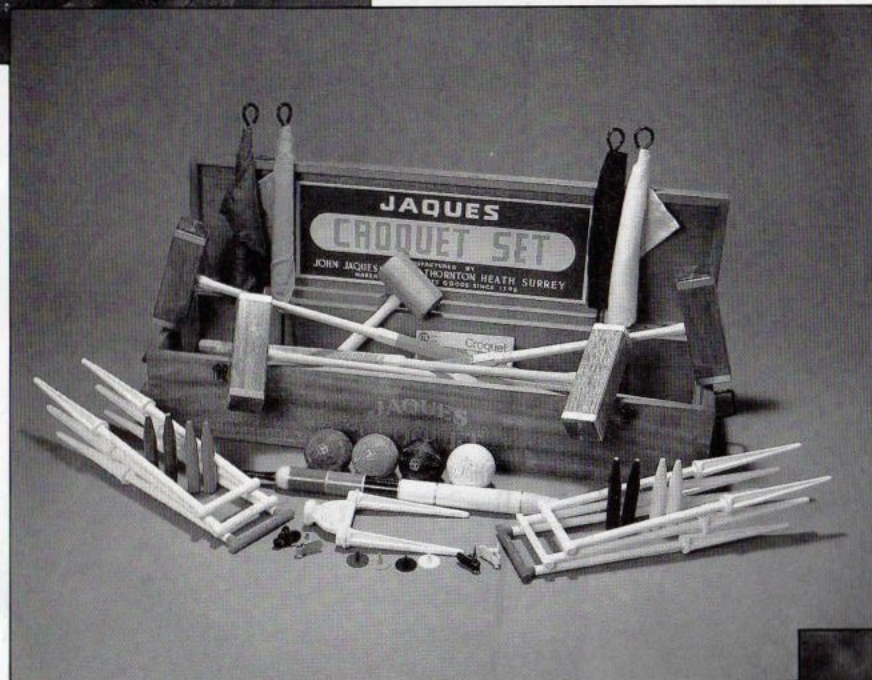


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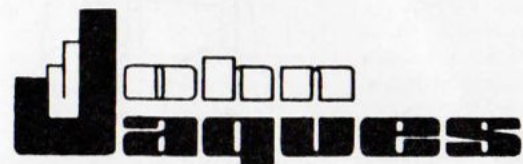
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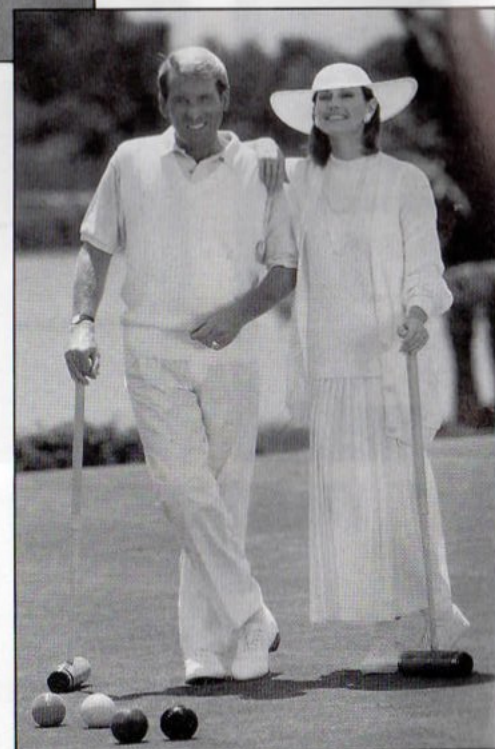
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ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS THE REGIONAL FINALS Himley (Midlands)

Report from Chris Hudson:

Potentially the West Midlands region is very strong, with more schools playing croquet than most other regions. Perhaps this reflects the fact that the previous two Chairmen of the Schools Committee, Peter Dorke and Ivor Brand, have both been based in the region.

events as the school's exchange to Germany and the match against the USA at Carrickmines. We had a good handicap spread: -1, 9 and 20, with all credit to Martin Mousley for turning out after two years without touching a mallet. He lost narrowly after a good recovery.



The Wrekin team, winners of the Handicap event (L to R): Robert Probyn, Juana Watterson (Royal Bank of Scotland), Andy Yates, Alex Dixon, and Eddie Roberts, master in charge of Croquet at Wrekin.

However, the East Midlands region is still only represented by the Colonel Frank Seely School, and a highlight of this year's Regional Final was the sight of their 12 boys pouring out of their mini-bus, rarin' to go. Their enthusiasm was infectious and did much to dispel the disappointment of the very heavy rain that spoilt the later stages of the competition.

In fact, Colonel Frank's boys entered two teams of their own, with the 12 boys taking it in turns to form teams of three for each successive round. They also provided a substitute for Warwick in each match, as Warwick were only able to field two players.

The eight competing teams were split into two blocks of four schools, using the six lawns available at Himley.

Wrekin I, the team with the lowest average handicap, effectively put paid to King Edward's chances with a decisive win in Round 2.

Round 3 was virtually destroyed by the heaviest rain I have seen for some time. However, those in contention battled on, with Bishop Veseys winning Block A and Wrekin taking Block B. In the last round, Gavin Treiving won the first game for Frank Seely's with a +4 win over Wrekin's Sophie Younger.

The play-off between the block winners took place a week later at Bowdon, when Wrekin beat Bishop Veseys to gain a place in the final of the handicap event.

Bowdon (North West)

Report from Andrew Bennet:

QEGS fielded the three available players, the others being away at such

Andy Holgate (QEGS) played a brilliant break after time was called to beat Peter Hopkins (Manchester Grammar) by 3. Altrincham Girls were disappointing, despite Chris Hudson's blatant contravention of Law 49(a) by coaching during the games. If we had known that they were withdrawing at midday, we might have devised another format. As it happened, Dan Kelly's coaching of Manchester Grammar in the use of bisques was conclusive and we were surprised to find that they were knocked out by Stowe in the next round. David Reekie (MGS) is improving rapidly.

Wrest Park (Eastern)

The Eastern Regional Final spread over 3 days, and was organised by Andy Wilson (Bedford Modern).

The first semi-final was played at Stowe between Stowe and Beachborough, and was won by Stowe. The second semi-final was played at Wrest Park between Bedford Modern and Icknield High, and was won by Bedford.

Bedford then played Stowe a week later at Wrest Park, with Stowe emerging victorious. They went on to beat Manchester Grammar at Edgbaston to gain a place in the national handicap final.

Nailsea (South West)

Peter Dyke (Nailsea) and Gregory Cameron (Wycliffe) organised the final between their respective schools, both of which entered two teams. The match was played at Nailsea, and it was good to see Wycliffe making their first appearance in the competition.

Cont'd Column 1 page 5...

THE NATIONAL FINALS

Bowdon: 4 July QEGS Retain Level Trophy

Report by Andrew Bennet

Manchester produced its infamous cold, wet and windy conditions for this event but the Bowdon lawns were still the best by far I have seen this season.

Nailsea were rather jet-lagged, having started travelling at 5.30am and the Saurins were in a similar state after an overnight ferry from Ireland, where they had been playing against the USA.

The day was complicated from the careworn Manager's point of view, as Bishop Veseys had also to play Wrekin in an inter-regional final of the handicap event. I was also under strict orders from my team that they had to be back home for the England v. West Germany World Cup semi-final.

QEGS started with crushing wins over Nailsea and retired to the warmth of the clubhouse. Wrekin beat Bishop Veseys in the handicap event in a close match, and for the first time in my experience of the Inter-Schools' Championship, all the handicaps were correct.

Back to the main event, and QEGS beat Bishop Veseys with triple peels from Dan McCormick and Andrew Saurin, who are both performing this feat regularly. As the format this year

Saurin did to him in the U-18 squad match, tried it on Dan, did the 4-back peel but later left Dan with a simple straight double to finish.

The Saurins also won by large margins even before Dan, and this last round was finished within 45 minutes. QEGS returned without the trophy only because Dan left it in the clubhouse, as we realised when stuck in a motorway jam. We were still back in time for the football.

We thank the Royal Bank for the sponsorship, the Bowdon Club for their hospitality and especially Chris Hudson for his organisation.

Bowdon: 11 July Wrekin Keep Handicap Title

Report by Andrew Bennet

I turned up and found that I was Manager. The draw was made and unfortunately Nailsea were to play Wrekin, as they had done a week before in the level competition. Nailsea's David Lilly had a good +26 win against Alex Dixon, and their third deciding game was a +1 after time to Andy Yates of Wrekin.



Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, winners of the Level Championship, with Juana Watterson of the Royal Bank of Scotland (L to R): Dan McCormick, Adrian and Andrew Saurin.

is level play rather than advanced, the triple peel is just icing on the cake, but they went for it and achieved it. Adrian Saurin also attempted a triple peel. At 13 he was by far the youngest player and is already up to top-class standard.

Wrekin beat Nailsea in the next round, much to my managerial relief. David Lilly of Nailsea looked dangerous with his straight hitting and tight break-play, but Jon Simon of Wrekin had the edge. He attempts too many split-rolls which go wrong at this stage, but clearly has a good future.

The final between QEGS and Wrekin was dominated by the importance of getting home to watch the football. Robert Probyn, remembering the TPO which Adrian

Stowe had a convincing 3-0 win over Ardingly. Stowe's Alex Mustard lived up to his name and I took a bisque from him as he improved during the day, but once again regional handicappers are to be commended on the correctness of their assessment.

Nailsea, the only comprehensive school present, made short work of Ardingly in the play-off for third place, while Wrekin had a convincing win over Stowe to win the trophy for the second time, with an especially good performance by Robert Probyn.

Our thanks go again to Chris Hudson for the organisation, the Bowdon club for hosting the finals, and to the Royal Bank of Scotland for their sponsorship.

A Friendly?

By Reginald Baunt

Having an unexpectedly free Friday afternoon, Glen Bale-Gair threw his mallet and trainers into the boot of his car and headed for the Club.

Traffic was unusually light, and as he approached his destination he unconsciously admired the sun-bleached facades of the houses lying back from the road, and the rearing bulk of St. Stephen's Church with its ever-leaking roof.

'There is bound to be someone looking for a game' he thought. 'If not, I'll practise a triple or two and enjoy the sun!'

The empty car-park was a bad sign and the clubhouse was locked. Collecting a key from the next-door Bowls club he let himself in, changed his shoes and carried hoops and balls outside. 'Triples it will have to be,' he thought. It was vaguely annoying that no other members had troubled to come down on such a beautiful day.

A movement to the left caught his eye and with pleasure he viewed the approaching form of the Rev. Gus Heriot. Gus was a competent middle-handicap player, well liked for his unassuming manner and benign good humour. His blue eyes normally sparkled behind his gold-rimmed glasses and his pink cherubic face was framed by a halo of thinning light-brown hair. His two peccadillos were soon forgiven by most of the members. Leave one of the quality newspapers untended while Gus was around and the returning owner was apt to find the cryptic crossword well advanced and the margins of the back page defaced by circles of minute letters. There was also the matter of the 'little wagers'. Whenever Gus played a friendly with the more affluent members, he would always quietly suggest 'a little wager perhaps - a fiver to the Roof Fund if I win, a fiver from my pocket if I lose.' This had been going on for years but the roof still seemed to leak! Observant members noted that whereas Gus normally finished in the middle of any tournament block, when it came to these friendlies he was mustard.

Glen welcomed Gus with delight and asked if he would like a game. Gus, looking unusually serious, said 'Sorry Glen, I've arranged to play an acquaintance who is passing through. He should be here soon ...'

Just as they finished on lawn 2, a nearby clock struck three. A tall, lean figure carrying a mallet joined them. 'Let me introduce Ted Hilve, Glen - he comes from far parts. This is my good friend, Glen Bale-Gair. The newcomer gave Glen a brief nod and a sharp glance from strangely burning eyes set deep in a long, narrow face.

'Let's begin!' he said rather curtly to Gus. 'I'll toss. We'll play level - for the stake agreed.'

The game began unremarkably, both players seeming rather edgy. Eventually Gus settled into a break, taking his red through penult, leaving blue and black cross-wired at Hoop 1 and placing his own pair guarding Corner 3 with yellow hidden behind Hoop 3. He walked off looking mildly satisfied.

Hilve stalked the black carefully and aimed at the just visible red. Hit with power, it missed the red but crashed through Hoop 3 - hitting the hidden yellow fair and square.

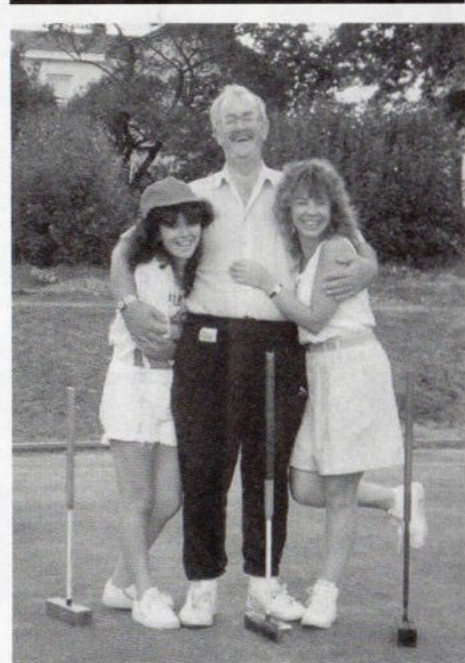
Glen, who had settled down to watch thought 'that chap's got the luck of the devil.'

From that roquet Hilve sent yellow to Hoop 2 with a stop-shot, rushed red to the middle of the lawn, took off to blue and was away on a four-ball break. After making 3-back he sent red to rover, made 4-back, came back to improve red's position, made penult, peeled red through rover - getting a useful sideways deflection off the wire. It was inevitable that black would run rover, roquet red back and peg it out. And so it was, but then - to the

surprise of Gus and the watching Glen - Hilve promptly pegged out black!

As he walked off carrying red and black clips, Hilve said, with a wolfish grin, "See what you can do now. Let it not be said I gave you no chance."

As Gus walked slowly on to the lawn, he seemed to be looking up and muttering quietly while approaching his yellow, which lay adjacent to Hoop 6. Blue, in Corner 1, was a dangerous target but Gus aimed with great care - and hit it. His approach to Hoop 1 was perfect and likewise the rush to Hoop 2. Through 2, his rush to 3 was not so good but with blue lying between Hoops 3 and 6 he opted to take-off from Hoop 3 in preference to a split roll approach. This let him make the hoop but left no rush to 4. He therefore decided to lurk in Corner 4 and take his chance that Hilve would hit in.



Staff at Granada TV have recently set up their own croquet club. Geoff Turner, pictured here with Tina Jordan (left) and Maxine Hawley during their 6 week coaching course at Boudon, is the engineer responsible for developing the TV 'eye' that can be hidden in a cricket stump.

He did just that, and with a fiendishly accurate roll positioned the balls bracketing Hoop 1. What followed was a repeat of Gus's turn, except that Hilve made 3 to perfection and then proceeded to romp through to 2-back. At this point he unaccountably miscued and left blue stuck in the hoop, with yellow two yards south-east of it.

Gus asked Glen if he would watch his next shot as Hilve stood in Corner 1 with furrowed brow. The hit was clean and blue travelled smartly northwards. Glen still recalls the split roll which Gus then played to leave Hoop 4 at his mercy, with blue perfectly placed for the rush to 5. Hoops 5 and 6 were soon accomplished followed by 1-, 2- and 3-back. Flushed with success, Gus eyed 4-back with a casual eye, played it casually and paid the penalty. Yellow stuck in the hoop with blue three yards to the north-west.

Hilve made no mistake with the roquet as Glen stood to one side. The subsequent roll to set up blue for 2-back with yellow in a good rush position, involving as it did a deflection of blue off the peg, is also engraved in Glen's memory. 2-back was followed by 3-back but the rush of yellow towards

4-back was poor, well short and off towards the east boundary, due partly to a freshening breeze. The following roll left blue with a low percentage chance of running 4-back. Now Hilve paused, long bony fingers rubbing long bony chin. With both balls for 4-back and a lift available for a wired leave, there was a problem. Hilve opted for safety and played off the east boundary, to leave yellow a 15 yarder.

There followed a tense few minutes as each player tried to tempt the other into a false shot. Finally Gus missed a 10-yarder at blue lying two yards south of the hoop. Hilve ran it with an arrogant flick and, ignoring yellow, laid up for penult. Gus laid up for 4-back beautifully and walked off with all his fingers crossed.

Frowning with savage concentration, Hilve not only ran penult but left blue with a reasonable shot at rover. After a moment's thought, he stalked like a panther to his ball and struck it cleanly through the hoop. As he walked south, his expression seemed to say 'Now for the Kill!' But this expression changed when he turned and realised rover hoop left him with only a half ball shot at the peg.

An impatient gesture brought Glen to attend the peg as Hilve lined up his shot to win. With awful deliberation he took his stance, addressed his ball and struck it hard. Glen watched with apprehension as it started truly on its way then nicked the side of rover, took a big deflection and finished off the north boundary behind Hoop 2. Kicking his mallet, Hilve stamped off the lawn, his face not pleasant to behold.

Gus rose with an upward glance to where the clouds now scurried across a threatening sky and, buffeted by the wind, made his way to yellow and 4-back. His hoop shot was clean as the first rain drops began to fall. With heart in mouth he now laid up for penult. Hilve spurned the tempting yellow, fired fiercely at the peg, missed it by a millimetre, and went off due south of hoop 4.

The Vicar of St. Stephen's muttered all the way to his ball, which did not touch the sides of penult before finishing a yard short of rover. A kind of deflection through rover left a shot at the peg.

Bearing blue's position in mind, Gus gently ran yellow towards the peg. The shot was just too gentle: yellow stopped six inches south-east of its target!

Like an uncoiled spring, Hilve leapt up and eyed his double target. In a moment of relative stillness, he swung his mallet.

By the peg, as if in slow motion, Glen watched the incoming blue - straight for the peg. In the last three yards, however, a sudden squall of wind rushed in from the west. Blue swerved and clipped the east side of yellow - which smartly struck the peg!

Glen looked up, astonished. Then he saw Gus on his knees, almost in tears, apparently with relief at having won. 'Unusual for Gus to be so emotional,' he thought.

With hardly a word, Hilve turned and marched away.

As they were gathering up the furniture, Glen asked the still pale Gus if he had collected the usual fiver. The low-voiced 'It was rather more than that - I could have lost my soul!' left him rather puzzled.

Turning out of the car-park, homeward, Glen looked towards St. Stephen's. A shaft of sunshine bursting through the rainclouds lit up a newly tiled and freshly leaded roof, glistening in the brilliant light!

'Good Lord!' the astounded Glen whispered to himself. 'Good Lord!'

GIEVES & HAWKES TO SPONSOR UK SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Croquet Association was delighted to welcome Gieves & Hawkes as sponsors for the 1990 President's Match, played between teams from the USA and Great Britain & Ireland at Hurlingham on Thursday, 5th July.

During the match, Gieves & Hawkes announced their further sponsorship of croquet, with a UK Seniors Tournament planned for 1991. This will match their USA sponsorship, providing senior champions in both countries. It is then intended to inaugurate a Gieves & Hawkes International Cup, to be contested between two teams of seniors, one from the USA and one from Great Britain. The venue for this tournament will alternate between a US and a UK location.

This sponsorship is the latest in the company's wide ranging support of the sport of croquet which began earlier this year in the USA, when the Gieves & Hawkes US/International Challenge Cup was played at Palm Beach. Immediately following this major event, Gieves & Hawkes undertook to be presenting sponsors of the USCA Seniors Championships,

....Royal Bank of Scotland
Cont'd from page 3

In the first round, Nailsea 'A' beat Wycliffe 'B' 3-0, and Wycliffe 'A' turned the tables, beating Nailsea 'B' 2-1. The final was won by Nailsea 3-0, who also won the 3rd place play-off.

Ardingly (South East)

The South East Region like the West Midlands has a growing number of schools that play croquet. The difficulty each year lies in bringing them to the starting line on a mutually convenient date. Some schools can only play on Sundays, as their team members have Saturday jobs. Other schools can only get a team together during the week. Others have already broken up after examinations.

This year, as on previous occasions, the task in bringing everyone together fell to Nick Waters (Ardingly) who organised the final as a knock-out.

In the first Round, Brighton beat Maidstone I (2-1) and Ardingly II beat Maidstone II (3-0). In the second round, Ardingly I beat Brighton 3-0, leaving the final to be played between the two Ardingly teams.

Heathfield (South)

The Southern Regional final was between Heathfield and Reading. Examinations and other commitments meant that neither school was able to field its strongest players, but Roy Tillcock (Reading) and Tony Backhouse (Heathfield) raised a scratch team from their respective schools, and the match resulted in a 3-0 win by Reading.

which has six regional finals at prime locations across the USA. This tournament culminates in mid-September with a grand final at Newport, Rhode Island.

A new range of clothing entitled 'The Gieves & Hawkes Croquet Collection' will also be introduced into the American market later this year.

When croquet first made its mark on the world stage in the 1860's Gieves & Hawkes had already long been serving the sartorial needs of British Officers and gentlemen around the globe.

Today, Gieves & Hawkes clothing and accessories can be found in the USA, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and, shortly, in a new flagship store planned to open in Milan. As the company continues to expand so, hopefully, croquet will be enjoyed by a growing audience worldwide.

GIEVES AND HAWKES No.1 Savile Row

There are few companies existing today which can claim a client list ranging from Admiral Lord Nelson and the Duke of Wellington to world leaders such as Premier Gorbachev and President Bush. Fewer still would be in the business of mens clothing; fashion is after all a notoriously fickle business.

Perhaps therein lies Gieves & Hawkes success for not only have they survived but most definitely prospered in their two hundred year history. Spurning the whims of high fashion, they prefer instead to heed classical style, the sort of subtle elegance that betokens the English gentleman, probably best epitomised by the late Duke of Windsor, an acknowledged leader in 'style'. Vice-Chairman Robert Gieve is the fifth generation to serve in the family business and can still be found serving customers on the shop floor. He explains the company's philosophy of success: 'quite simply we have held to a tradition of offering our customers only the very finest in quality, craftsmanship and service. Customers come to us to find the standards of excellence that are sadly



Robert Gieve with the President's Match trophies.

all too rare in the current marketplace.

However, history also shows that an entrepreneurial element has long been evident in the company's existence; a marketing flair one step ahead of its time. It was, after all, Gieves & Hawkes who first introduced ready to wear clothing into the hallowed environs of Savile Row, the acknowledged world centre of bespoke tailoring, back in 1922. 'Lifestyles changed dramatically after the First World War, the Twenties were fast and progressive times and we had to move with them. We anticipated the changing needs of our customers and provided for them' says Robert Gieve.

An innovative flair shown in activities both ancient and modern. A first mail order catalogue was produced by the company back in 1888 and posted to officers and gentlemen in the far flung corners of the then British Empire. Solidly bound volumes offering everything a British gentleman posted overseas could need to maintain his lifestyle, they included such essentials as llama wool underwear and Cholera Belts. Today, sadly, no-one is too sure how the latter item managed to ward off the dread disease.

Founded in 1785 as a naval tailor based in Portsmouth, Gieves are as famous today as they were two

centuries ago for the magnificent uniform and regalia they produce. Still 'serving the Services' the company responds to the demands of the Armed Forces, crowned heads, dignitaries and public and political figures world-wide, despatching Master cutters and tailors to the far corners of the globe.

Of course not all overseas customers need incur the expense of sending to London to enjoy Gieves & Hawkes service, for in addition to their 12 UK shops, the company has established 'outposts' in Hong Kong, Japan, USA, Taiwan, Singapore and Canada. A major new flagship store is also planned to open in Milan later this year. Customers are offered a wide range of products all bearing the company's prestigious blue satin label. The predominantly international 'Executive' class clientele is reflected with elegant accessories such as traditional Fob watch and chain, silver and gold heraldic design cufflinks and the most exquisite hand-crafted footwear (which comes packaged in a solid wooden box with individual shoe bags, spare laces, leather shoe-horn, beechwood shoe-trees and polishing cloth).

The flagship store of No.1 Savile Row is, not suprisingly, as remarkable as the company it houses. Built in 1732 by the then Lord Burlington, it has seen service not only as a gentleman's townhouse but also, at the turn of the century, as headquarters of the Royal Geographical Society.

The beautiful glass domed area on the ground floor was originally the Society's library and map room and it was from here that Livingstone and Stanley's great expeditions were planned and charted. In 1874 Dr Livingstone's body lay in-state at No.1 Savile Row before being finally interred at Westminster Abbey.

With such a rich and varied history, could one hope to find at least one ghostly relic lurking on the premises? 'I don't know of any past customers who haunt the premises' mused Robert Gieve, 'but I'm delighted to say many of the existing ones do!'



One of the Gieves & Hawkes displays at Hurlingham.

Tournament Reports

Surbiton: 10-13 May Revival of Peel Memorial Handicap

Report by Ian McDermid

The Peel Memorials at Surbiton with 14 doubles pairs, 21 in the men's singles and 10 in the ladies, was a huge success. This welcome revival of the oldest CA Handicap event in the Calendar provided mixed weather and mixed fortunes for most. The lawns were mixed as well - a vegetative aspect crept in with some contestants muttering about bananas(?) and another using a carrot to hit a ball! This has nothing to do with the cuisine, which was home cooking par excellence.

Final of the Men's Peel Memorial was a three way one-ball play-off between Alex Thomas, Hugh Smorfit and Michael Llewellyn-Williams. In the first round between Alex and Hugh, the latter is quoted as saying 'there'll be a lot of blood on the carpet by the time we finish!'. It was nearly his own when he gave away a lift and beat his hat to death with his mallet! This followed a cat and mouse round 3-back, with Hugh still on 6. But he was through to catch Alex up at penult. A further ding-dong battle ensued round peg and

rover, with Alex finally pipping Hugh to the post.

Second round between Hugh and Michael, who had led most of the way. But late starter Hugh caught up again at penult. Michael missed peg, with Hugh for rover. They ended either side of the peg, with Michael finally hitting in.

Third round, Alex versus Michael, who astonished himself and the handicappers by running 1 and 2 in his first turn. They were together at 4 and 5 and cautiously fought over 3-back when Alex went ahead. Together again at Rover but Lord Alex Thomas Peel won through.

The Ladies Memorial Peel was won outright by Christine Osmond who won all six of her games, lost one bisque and took home the most enormous trophy which had its own box and nearly took two to carry it.

Christine also featured in the Doubles, winning the X with John Greenwood. In one game she was faced with time called and one hoop down. Fearlessly she hit a 15-yard roquet, took off accurately with a

Budleigh Salterton - 14-19 May Heavy schedule at Budleigh

Report by Dr D.R. Laney

At Budleigh Salterton's May tournament this year, 47 competitors entered the singles events and 23 pairs entered the Doubles. The club was delighted to welcome back old friends who had entered this annual tournament in the past and to greet new faces - in particular perhaps Don Gaunt from Cheltenham who acted as front runner with a handicap of minus 1/2. A most enjoyable time was had by all the entrants; a total of 196 games were played through the week, with five finals arranged on the Saturday afternoon.

The singles event was played in six American blocks of eight players, selected in Handicap order. For the first time in many years the winners of the top blocks were both local players. Tony Bower won all of his seven games, playing off a handicap of 4 1/2, beating Don Gaunt by the convincing margin of 23. Richard Brand, playing off 1, won the second block by winning six out of his seven games. In the play-off, it looked as if Richard would run away with the cup, but a missed shot on his second ball allowed Tony in to get his first ball round; eventually however, Richard regained the innings and made no further mistakes to win the game by 11 points.

The Club was also represented in the second play-off; Christine Bagnall had won all her matches in her block and was to play Hamish Hall from Bristol who had won all of his; but it was Hamish who was able to continue his winning ways.

The third pair of blocks were

headed by Tony Addis of Plymouth and David Wickham of Budleigh and it was Addis who this time came out on top.

Two novices, man and wife, the Regans, from Kington Langley, with a fistful of bisesques between them, put these to good use to overcome all opposition to take the Challenge cups in the Doubles event. In the Y-doubles, two Sidmouth players, John Hatherley and Mary Hardman, at least showed that they could come near to retaining the cups which they had won in this event last year.

At the prize-giving the Chairman thanked all those who had helped in running the tournament including the ground staff, the caterers and the secretary, and the managers and the referees. Most of the winners were further rewarded for their improved play by having handicap reductions. And yet another feather in Richard Brand's cap was achieved by his passing the referee's examination - as did Neil Griffin.

RESULTS

Block Winners

Block A: T.M. Bower.
Block B: R. Brand.
Block C: Mrs C. Bagnall.
Block D: H. Hall.
Block E: A.J.W. Addis.
Block F: D. Wickham.

Handicap Doubles

Semi-Finals

A. Potter & Mrs Green bt A.M. Wickham & N. Griffin +12; Mr & Mrs D. Regan bt D. Purdon & Mrs Bagnall +2(T).

Final

Mr & Mrs Regan bt Potter & Mrs Green +4(T).



Block winners at Southport in May (L to R): Dan McCormick, Andy Holgate, Andrew Bennet, and Adrian Saurin with their handicap cards.

15-yard position shot for a rush to penult, which she made. Fairly, the opposition was allowed a turn or two before Christine finally ran Rover for the winning point!

The Y doubles was won by J. Bonser and Michael Llewellyn-Williams by the skin of their teeth - one point in the finals.

Two observations: One, pity the poor referee. One such was having a terrible game in the doubles, missing short roquets, slicing, blobbing, you name it, he did it. I think it was raining as well. And every time he looked to the heavens in exasperation there was some fool with his mallet in the air, usually four or five lawns away. He always arrived smiling though.

The other is, was there some sort of record achieved during the tournament? Lionel Wharred in playing against George Noble went round to 4-back with his first ball. In his next turn he roqueted it and peeled it through 4-back, at the same time going to one of George's balls on the North boundary. Putting that to the middle, he got a rush on his forward ball, took a bisque and

peeled it through penult at the same he went across to George's other ball rushed it to a hoop, took croquet and went through. Whereupon George politely asked 'Wouldn't it be a good idea to make hoop 1 before you make 2-back?'

Largely speaking a good time was had by one and all.

RESULTS

Men's Peel Memorial Handicap

6 wins: A. Thomas (winner of tie-break); M. Llewellyn-Williams; H.W. Smorfit.

5 wins: E. Dymock; J. Glynn.

4 wins: M. Town; G.W. Noble; A.R.K. Miller; M. Haggerston.

3 wins: D.C. Caporn; L. Chapman; L. Wharred; J.C. Straw; A.P. Judge; B. Sanford; I. McDiarmid; R.H. Selmes.

2 wins: J. Greenwood; A.A. Stockwell; M. Tompkinson.

1 win: N.J.C. Gooch.

Ladies' Peel Memorial Handicap

6 wins: Mrs C. Osmond.

5 wins: Mrs G. McDiarmid.

4 wins: Miss A. O'Connor.

3 wins: Mrs Asa-Thomas.

2 wins: Mrs V. Tompkinson; Mrs E. Grant; Mrs J. Bonser.

1 win: Mrs P. Healy; Mrs A. Robillard.

Handicap Mixed Doubles

Final

J. Greenwood & Mrs C. Osmond bt G.W. Noble & Mrs E.F. Grant +19.

Harrow: 2-3 June Investigative Reporting Needed!

Report by Simon Tuke

The delights of Richard 'Mrs Beeton' Hilditch's legendary catering enticed a select field of 8 away from the Men's and Women's Championships. This enabled the tournament to be played as best of 3 knock-out with best of 5 final and Swiz.

Highlights included; Ayatollism - Tony Miller being banned from polluting the knife with his private pickle supply. The Ridiculous to the Sublime - Nick Harris losing his first 4 games, then missing the peg-out on a straight triple in the next. Greatest Pessimist - Martin Kolbuszewski losing to Phil Cordingley -52, and running Hoop 1 in the first turn of the next game to ensure he broke his duck. Unfortunately he went on to lose that one -25. Quickest Game - Hilditch v Tuke. Richard trickled to

Hoop 1 in first turn, Simon deemed in Corner 3 in second, Richard took off from corner ball, made 1 and 2, approached 3 from corner 3, made it, went to 4-back, Simon hit lift and went to 4-back in fourth turn. Richard hit lift and went to peg, including two peels of a straight triple. Simon missed the short lift shot, Richard finished, seventh turn, 35 minutes. Technical Controversy - the discovery that the draw sheet stipulates 'Insert Sex' in the first round. Later mention that 'marriages are permitted' raised questions about the CA's attitude towards sex before marriage. Meteorological Freak - heavy rain on the Sunday, the first for about 6 weeks. The Result - Cordingley beat Hilditch in the final, 3-1, with two TPs.

Colchester: 26-28 May Poetic licence at Colchester

Report by David Ruscombe-King

Conditions were, everyone agreed, very difficult. The lawns were very fast. The hoops were very tight. Dare one suggest that the fashion for setting hoops on the balls rather than on the gauge leads to hoop settings that are tighter than the Laws allow.

The tournament was run as a Swiss. John Williams was the early leader. At the end of the second day he had five wins. On Monday morning he played Richard Hilditch and lost. Thus going into the final round Richard and John had five wins each. The number of players with four wins was enormous. I became one of them by winning against Celia Steward in the sixth round. To aid my concentration during the game I reflected on some current trends and composed the following lines:

The Macho Croquet Player

I have the longest mallet,

I set the tightest hoops.

If anyone can't run them

He's the poopiest of all poops.

But if anyone can peel them

He'll go from strength to strength,

And even dare to copy
My phallic mallet's length.

How everyone else fared in the final round I have little idea. I know that John Williams lost to Alan Girling. I played Richard Hilditch. It was a dour struggle. Eventually Richard pegged out my forward ball, while his backward ball was for penult, and mine for 3-back. After a few more hoops he got in front of rover (his hoop) with his other ball on the north boundary. I took position in front of penult (my hoop). He ran rover and went to the middle of the east boundary. I ran penult and took position four or five feet in front of rover while time was called. We were level again. Richard shot at the ball on the north boundary and missed. Putting all the hoops I had missed resolutely out of my mind I ran rover and won by the traditional margin.

Six people shared first prize: John Williams, Celia Steward, Fiona McCoig, Richard Hilditch, Alan Girling and I. We played off by trickling to the peg. I won. Somebody had to take the cup home.

Compton: 1-3 June Another happy occasion

Report by R.H. Selmes

Compton in the sunshine is a delightful place. There is always a friendly welcome, and someone there before play starts at 9.30 to provide coffee and then start the preparations for an excellent lunch.

But we came to play croquet for the magnificent Elvey Bowl - sixteen competitors with a handicap range from 0 to 20 (one of whom, Dr Bobbie Wiggins, began playing in tournaments in 1928). This tournament, under the capable management of Blanche Dennant, a manager ever present but never obtrusive, is played as a single-life knockout with the best of three for the semi-finals and final, the losers going into a five-round Swiss for the ski-ing (i.e. Swiss!) duck.

The end of day one saw two 'twelves', Keith Parsons and Cliff Jones, preparing to meet in one semi-final on Saturday and Peter Howell (1 1/2) and Ron Selmes (4 1/2) meeting in the other. Cliff won +6, +6, and Ron won +23, -5, +20.

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Tournament Reports



A lovely day at Brockhole House, Windermere, on Saturday 12th May, 1990. The day's play was organised by Paul and Shirley Stoker on two lakeside courts in the hope of promoting a new club in the Lake District. Players from the North-West, Carlisle, and Tyneside took part.

Compton Croquet Club regret to announce that their October tournament has had to be cancelled due to the state of their lawns.

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Hurlingham: 5th July US win Gieves & Hawkes President's Match

Report by Martin Murray

The serious business that is the Solomon Trophy (five days, twenty one matches, all best-of-three) is accompanied by a less serious one-day match, played to USCA rules. Less serious, that is, when the British team loses, which happened for the first time this year.

teams were, for once, well dressed. Should I read the number of unaccustomed compliments I received on my appearance as a comment on my usual standard?

Gieves & Hawkes are already sponsoring croquet in the USA, in the form of a Seniors' event (over 50),



Robert Gieve with the two Presidents: John Solomon (left) and Foxy Carter.

The British team, a different six from those contesting the Solomon Trophy, was supposed to have experience of such concepts as deadness, rotation, and grooming, but this time the American team, identical to the Solomon Trophy team for the first time, proved far too strong and ran out easy winners. Maybe they benefited from playing this match before the Solomon Trophy, while their confidence was still intact, but the truth was that failures of execution, rather than confusion over tactics and rules, was what let the British side down. Only one occasion of running over the wrong (right?) way was recorded, but Duncan Reeve won the game anyway.

From experience of several meetings between British and American players, I am increasingly of the opinion that it makes little difference what rules are played; the better stroke player will usually win whatever the rules. My criticism of the USCA game is not that it fails to produce a valid contest, even if games can be very one-sided, but that it does not encourage beginners to develop the skills of rushing, shooting, and precision that they will need to excel under either code.

This year an extra sense of occasion was added to the match by sponsorship from Gieves & Hawkes of Savile Row, who ensured that the

which has generated a lot of interest over there, and which they hope to extend to Britain as well. Perhaps it will provide an avenue for some of our 'golden oldies' to escape the shadow cast by the 'nippers' who are increasingly dominating the game these days.

Who knows, such a contest may even prompt more frequent appearances by such as John Solomon, whose elegant style is always a pleasure to see. Why, when he plays so beautifully, do all his imitators, with their 'Solomon' grips, look so awkward?

RESULTS

Doubles

Phil Cordingley & Debbie Prentis lost to Kiley Jones and Jerry Stark. Tom Coles and John Solomon beat Teddy Prentis and Bob Kroeger. Martin Murray and Duncan Reeve lost to Ray Bell and Peyton Ballenger.

Singles

Murray lost to Jones; Cordingley lost to Stark; Debbie Prentis beat Teddy Prentis; Coles lost to Bell; Reeve beat Ballenger; Solomon lost to Kroeger.

Match Result

USA beat Great Britain 6-3.

Bombay Sapphire Solomon Trophy 1990

Roehampton: 7-11 July Great Britain & Ireland Win Again

Report by William Prichard

The former H.Q. of the Croquet Association for so many years was the venue for the third staging of the Solomon Trophy. It remains a sad sight to see only three lawns at this prestigious club particularly as the adjacent putting green, which was patently underused, has a superior surface to those of both the croquet lawns and all 18 golf greens! Grateful thanks are due to the Roehampton Club for its hospitality and to the Croquet members for the surrender of their playing rights. Particular mention should be made of Barbara Mansfield who organised, almost single handed, the much appreciated refreshments.

The format for the event remained unchanged from last year and identical to that of the recent MacRobertson Shield Contest except that it was programmed to be completed over five days on three lawns, rather than over six days on four lawns, the extra day being saved by advancing singles matches to start as opponents were freed from doubles matches. The surprising lack of an event manager necessitated mutual agreement between the Captains, David Openshaw and Ray Bell, to arrange such matches. The equally surprising lack of a Referee of Tournament was partially remedied by the ubiquitous Irwins - Colin adjusted hoop settings daily (on one morning he narrowly avoided serious injury when he hammered his thumb) and Chris stepped into flat shoes, after having to fetch them from where she was staying, to act as Referee on call for a couple of days. After her departure it was left to competing Championship Referees or even others of less exalted status to fill in on an ad hoc basis.

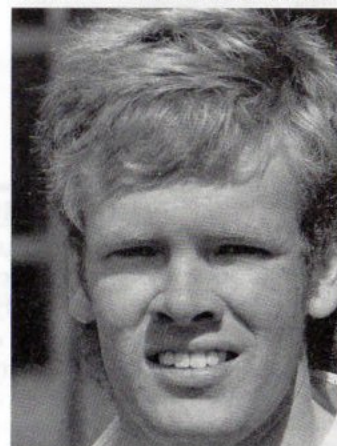
The two teams assembled on the eve of battle at the club for a cocktail party hosted by the sponsors Bombay Sapphire. This provided the perfect atmosphere for much prevarication about comparative form and to renew old acquaintances. The United States team which had crossed "The Pond" was generally believed to be their strongest yet fielded in the Trophy. The British team, short of Mulliner and Avery, was propped up by the 56 combined tournament years experienced by Nigel Aspinall and William Prichard. Clearly Great Britain were not treating this match lightly against such a respected adversary. At the end of the much enjoyed party the British team were rather overawed by the production of the widely advertised "Light Blue" sponsors' shirts which were to be worn. It turned out that they were actually dark blue - clearly a triumph

for the Chief Executive of Roehampton and the British Captain over the recently retired Chairman of the Croquet Association and his successor.

The play on Saturday was generally uninspiring with both teams skirmishing for an early advantage. The American top pair Kiley Jones and Jerry Stark took the opportunities given to them by a subdued Robert Fulford and fragile William Prichard to win the first game. Ray Bell and Peyton Ballenger emerged to win a protracted first game against a rather hesitant performance from the Irish pair of Colin Irwin and Mark Saurin. David Openshaw and Nigel Aspinall drew first blood for Great Britain in an efficient display against Bob Kroeger and Ted Prentis, both of whom seemed a little out of tune, by winning in 2 games quite easily. In the afternoon Jones and Stark both demonstrated their undoubted ability to win the second game and the match against Fulford and Prichard while Irwin and Saurin squared their match with a much more polished performance. The deciding game of the round and the match proved to be a nailbiter with both pairs providing an excellent display of shooting. Eventually, however, the British pair nosed their way to victory by 3 points.

In the first singles match to finish Aspinall was given far too many chances by Prentis who seemed disappointed with his play which was punctuated with careless mistakes. Meanwhile, Kroeger started impressively to win the first game against Prichard. However, on resumption of the match the next day Prichard overpowered Kroeger to win the second without serious challenge and the third with the first triple peel of the contest.

Openshaw demolished Jones in the first and showed his true class



Kiley Jones, who partnered Jerry Stark in the doubles to gain the only US victories.

with a well controlled triple peel when coming from behind in the second. Fulford lost the first game to Stark who took full advantage of the few opportunities offered to him. However, Fulford replied forcefully with an impressive display and ran away with the match unchallenged. Saurin also demonstrated excellent break play in his match with Ballenger culminating in his first STP to win the second game. Finally Irwin completed a British whitewash in the singles with the fourth British TP of the day in the deciding game with Bell. Thus on Sunday evening Great Britain led the U.S.A. by 8 matches to 1. The absence of spectators during the weekend was disappointing but perhaps predictable when the calendar clash of 3 open weekend tournaments coupled with the finals of both the World Cup and Wimbledon were taken into account.

Monday saw the second round of doubles matches, in which Jones and Stark repeated their success with victory over Irwin and Saurin who this time were unable to rescue the deciding game losing by 2 points. Fulford was the dominant force in his partnership with Prichard, who failed twice to complete triple peels when well established. Although the Americans received some consolation by coming from behind to win the second, Fulford in the third again exhibited his fine skill which has provided him with much success this season. Openshaw and Aspinall were never headed in their match against Bell and Ballenger, both of whom could not capitalise on the chances offered to them particularly from Aspinall's hooping errors.

The second round of single matches again provided a clean sweep for the Great Britain team which was now firing on all cylinders. The British top three gave particularly impressive displays. It seemed now that the Americans had lost a little of the determination that they had previously displayed to such good effect. However, they remained in good spirits and behaved in a most sportsmanlike manner.

On the final day of doubles Great Britain again dominated proceedings. Irwin completed his fourth TP of the event while Fulford



The two teams pose before the match.

RESULTS

(Great Britain & Ireland names first)

ROUND 1	BEAT	LOST TO	POINTS
Fulford & Prichard	BEAT	Jones & Stark	-16-10
Openshaw & Aspinall	BEAT	Prentis & Kroeger	+22+10
Irwin & Saurin	BEAT	Bell & Ballenger	-4+17+3
ROUND 2	BEAT	POINTS	
Fulford	BEAT	Stark	-19+22+25
Openshaw	BEAT	Jones	+26+6TP
Irwin	BEAT	Bell	+11-13+21TP
Aspinall	BEAT	Prentis	+18+14
Saurin	BEAT	Ballenger	+21+17STP
Prichard	BEAT	Kroeger	+23-15+26TP
ROUND 3	BEAT	POINTS	
Fulford & Prichard	BEAT	Prentis & Kroeger	+16-7+13
Openshaw & Aspinall	BEAT	Bell & Ballenger	+14+23
Irwin & Saurin	LOST TO	Jones & Stark	+15-20-2
ROUND 4	BEAT	POINTS	
Fulford	BEAT	Jones	-4+21+26
Openshaw	BEAT	Stark	+5TP+14
Irwin	BEAT	Prentis	+26TP+17TP
Aspinall	BEAT	Bell	+23+14
Saurin	BEAT	Kroeger	+17+17
Prichard	BEAT	Ballenger	-16+16+15
ROUND 5	BEAT	POINTS	
Fulford & Prichard	BEAT	Bell & Ballenger	+22+20
Openshaw & Aspinall	BEAT	Jones & Stark	+17+12
Irwin & Saurin	BEAT	Prentis & Kroeger	+25TP+16

MATCH RESULT

GREAT BRITAIN BEAT UNITED STATES 19-2

Results of National Tournaments

SECRETARY'S SHIELD

1st Round

Bowdon bt Tyneside 4-2
Leicester bt Colchester 5-2

INTER-CLUB

1st Round

Ipswich bt Bristol 6-1
Colchester bt Southport 5-2
Roehampton bt Nottingham 5-0
Cheltenham bt Woking 4-3
Bowdon bt Wrest Park 4-3
Surbiton bt Hurlingham 5-2

2nd Round

Bowdon bt Cheltenham 4-3
Harrow Oak bt Surbiton 4-3

MARY ROSE

1st Round

Hurlingham bt Wrest Park 5-2
Colworth bt Edgbaston 4-3
Bowdon bt Cheltenham A 4-3
Glasgow bt Dyffryn 5-2
Himley bt Nottingham 6-1
Surbiton bt Bristol 6-1
Roehampton bt Parkstone 4-3
Cheltenham B bt Stourbridge 7-0

2nd Round

Colworth bt Hurlingham 4-3

LONGMAN CUP

1st Round

Ellesmere bt Southport 3-2

Pendle bt Edinburgh 3-2
Bretby bt Nottingham 3-2
Ancell Trust bt Edgbaston 4-1
Worcester bt Himley 4-1
Oxford Univ bt Roehampton 4-1
A.E.R.E. bt High Wycombe 3-2
Woking bt Reading 4-1
Newport bt Colworth 4-1
Letchworth bt Crawley 3-2
Ryde bt Ramsgate 3-2
Kingston Maurward bt Nailsea 3-2
Bristol bt Sidmouth 3-2

2nd Round

Ellesmere bt Bowdon 4-1
Tyneside bt Pendle 3-2
Beverley bt Bretby 4-1

Leicester bt Ancell Trust 4-1
Worcester bt Stourbridge 4-1
Cassiobury bt Oxford Univ (w/o)
Harrow Oak bt A.E.R.E. 4-1
Hurlingham bt Surbiton 3-2
Woking bt Parsons Green 3-2
Ipswich bt Newport 3-2
Wrest Park bt Letchworth 4-1
Compton bt Southwick 3-2
Parkstone bt Ryde 5-0
Bear of Rodborough bt Kingston Maurward 3-2
Cheltenham bt Bristol 4-1
Bath bt Dyffryn 3-2

3rd Round

Hurlingham bt Harrow Oak 4-1

Your Letters

Handicap Increases

Dear Sir,
At a recent handicap tournament, I was disturbed to hear from a handicapper that a certain person who was being discussed with a view to an increase had on a previous occasion been abusive when an increase was suggested.

I view this with deep concern. It is a difficult enough task being a handicapper as it is, with little thanks, without the fear of pressure being brought to bear. It is usually the case that you know when you are not playing to your handicap. When this happens regularly, you should request a rise, or at least discuss it with a handicapper. You should not wait to be put up, under the illusion that this is some sort of disgrace. If you are put up, however, accept that it has been done as much in your interests as anyone's and look upon it as a chance to win more games. Who knows, you might start winning, get your confidence back, and end up lower than you were before!

Players are reminded that there is an official appeals procedure in cases of handicap grievance.

Don Gaunt,
Chairman, Handicap Committee.

The Swiss Robin

Dear Sir,
The Swiss Robin is a system of managing a competition so that all the people who enter will get the same number of games while, at the end of the competition, the winner and the runner-up are clearly decided. I devised it a few years ago for use in the Bush Club where it seems to have been quite successful and I used it for the Bush Open Tournament in June, in a revised form. The system is a hybrid of the Swiss and the Round Robin competitions, both of which are defined in the regulations.

Briefly, the Swiss system was devised long ago for chess competitions to allow large numbers of players to compete over a limited period, e.g. 100 people playing over a weekend. The aim is to rank everyone in order after each round and to pair players of similar rank for the next round, but never to pair the same two people twice. In chess it is impossible for the Tournament manager to play as well as organise the games because of the work involved, and even in croquet with 12 players, say, it is difficult; mistakes in pairing are easily made.

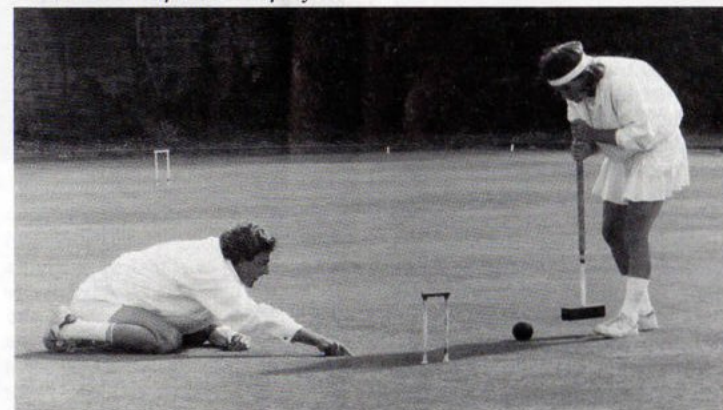
The Round Robin system is the well-known American block where everyone plays everyone, and it is an ideal system. Unfortunately, a complete single block cannot be used for a weekend competition because, even with as few as 12 players, there are too many games per player and so a single winner cannot be decided. The Swiss Robin is designed to get over this problem by restricting the number of rounds

selected from the complete block, but basing the selection of rounds on a Swiss criterion.

The great advantage of the Round Robin system, from a manager's point of view, is that all the matches can be written down, round by round, before the competition starts. The two simple methods of doing this may not be widely known; they are the numbering method and the square method. The numbering method is analogous to matching people across a table; after each round all the players at the table except one, move round one place. The square method is much more compact on paper, although a little tricky to prepare. As an example, the Round Robin square for six players is given below.

	ARCHIE	BESS	CHARLIE	DONALD	ETHEL	FERGUS
ARCHIE		A	B	C	D	E
BESS	A		C	D	E	B
CHARLIE	B	C		E	A	D
DONALD	C	D	E		B	A
ETHEL	D	E	A	B		C
FERGUS	E	B	D	A	C	

Round Robin square for 6 players.



Alan and Gill Bogle working as a team in the final of the Mixed Doubles at the Men's & Women's in June.

In the Swiss Robin, the names are first drawn out of a hat and written in their places on the square as shown; these places are not changed during the competition. Round A is played first:

ARCHIE	V	BESS
CHARLIE	V	ETHEL
DONALD	V	FERGUS

For the second round, the two winners from the first round who have the highest places in the original draw are paired in the 'Top Game'. Suppose BESS and CHARLIE and FERGUS win their first games; then BESS v CHARLIE is the Top Game because FERGUS is lower down the draw. This is a match from Round C and so the second round matches are:

BESS	V	CHARLIE
ARCHIE	V	DONALD
ETHEL	V	FERGUS

For the third round, and fourth round if played, the Top Game is again

selected by (1) the places in the draw, and (2) the games won by each player and again this selects the round to play from the square. At the end of the competition the winner and runner-up places are decided by the games won and the hoops scored, with a tie-break used if necessary.

The Swiss Robin does permit the manager to draw up the next round's games quite quickly and with little likelihood of mistakes; he can also draw up the games before the previous round has finished, provided the Top Game has become clear. The system deals quite easily with byes, if there is an odd number of players, and guarantees that no player gets more than one bye. In order to make the results more visual for both players and spectators (and easier to rank for the manager) each player can have a card with coloured tabs - a win is red, a lose is blue, and a bye is green.

There are one or two more wrinkles to the Swiss Robin that I have not mentioned, but I hope the idea is clear enough for other people to think of trying it.

Alastair Hunter,
Edinburgh.

more so than a number of events played at particular clubs - and is thus worthy of inclusion. The same argument could apply to the Du Pre Cup at the Men's and Women's Championships.

I am told that the Committee did not see fit to agree with this suggestion, but since I have never had an acknowledgment of my letter - let alone an explanation of the Committee's reasons for rejecting the suggestion, I thought I would seek the opinion of the readers of CROQUET. If a majority of A class players feel that such an amendment would be welcomed, then perhaps the Tournament Committee will be prepared to reconsider.

It may be said that this is just 'sour grapes' on my part, but while I admit I was affected by this decision I am not alone. In effect the decision has penalised players who are only able to afford the time to play in certain events each year - e.g. in my case whilst I was working I could only play in the Counties, the Opens and an Invitation Event. I agree that the situation has rather changed in recent years as there are now a number of week-end A Class events and players tend to come to the fore at an earlier age. The criticism is still valid however.

I also suggested to the Committee after watching the famous Openshaw/Mulliner match in the World Championships at Hurlingham last year that there should be a special 'Prize for the best game of the Tournament' or 'Brilliant Prize', rather than the lines of those awarded at various national and international chess tournaments. The prize to be awarded by the Manager of the Tournament on the authenticated reports of the competitors.

This is not to say that there should be a prize at every tournament but only to commemorate some quite outstanding feat. Again I am told that the Committee considered this idea was 'trivial' but since it is awarded in serious chess tournaments I fail to see why it should not be considered seriously in croquet. I notice incidentally that this particular game is mentioned in the 1990 TCA on page 209 as worthy of a 'special discretionary award'.

What do your readers think?

Vincent Camroux,
Forest Hill.

Narrow Verse

Dear Sir,
Undeniably the piece of verse shown below had one merit - it will fit inside the width of the columns of 'Croquet'! This is what it is:-
SHORT CROQUET
Life is good fun
Running hoop 1
Rather askew,
Careful at 2.
Can this be me

Running hoop 3?

Good luck galore,
Scraping through 4.

Barely alive,

Getting hoop 5.

Cannot finesse.

(As you may guess).

Tommy Cameron,
York.

The Inter-Counties

Dear Sir,
I volunteered on behalf of the CA Council Tournament Committee to produce a questionnaire which would ask for players views on various aspects of this year's Inter-counties tournament. The results will be discussed at a future meeting. Since, however, there may well be people who were not there who may wish to comment, I would be happy to receive any further views (in writing please).

Players were asked to indicate their views by indicating from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree) for each suggestion. The results follow. 96 questionnaires were given out and 47 were returned. The figure under (Calc) by each suggestion is calculated by assuming +2 for strongly agree through to -2 for strongly disagree. No specific implication is given by such a calculation. Some questions were not answered by all respondents.

Question.

1 2 3 4 5 Calc

The IC should stay at Southwick 16 10 21 3 2 +35

The IC should be split into 2 leagues 3 7 6 11 22 -42

A county can enter more than one team 5 3 5 6 29 -51

If two leagues, play should take place at the same location 18 10 10 5 7 +27

Same location and date 22 5 10 4 6 +33

If two leagues, there should be promotion/relegation 30 10 2 0 5 +60

If two leagues, they should be split North/South 4 3 5 10 27 -53

The old-style county boundaries should be used 18 8 13 5 5 +29

The new-style county boundaries should be used 8 7 17 9 9 -4

Welsh counties to be included 13 10 23 2 1 +32

Federation boundaries to be used 1 1 7 9 32 -70

Multiple counties old-style cannot enter 5 4 11 14 15 -30

Multiple counties new-style cannot enter 8 4 6 12 17 -26

If Multiple counties allowed, there should be a limit 19 11 15 1 4 +40

The present number of players in a team is correct 25 18 6 0 1 +66

The No. of players in a team should be reduced 1 0 7 19 25 -77

Place of birth should be an allowed qualification to play 43 2 1 1 0 +87

Present residence an a.q.t.p. 37 4 0 2 6 +64

Previous residence an a.q.t.p. 13 6 3 6 22 -18

Main club membership an a.q.t.p. 25 12 1 3 8 +43

Any club membership an a.q.t.p. 14 3 1 10 20 -19

Place of birth should be an allowed qualification to play 43 2 1 1 0 +87

Present residence an a.q.t.p. 37 4 0 2 6 +64

Previous residence an a.q.t.p. 13 6 3 6 22 -18

Main club membership an a.q.t.p. 25 12 1 3 8 +43

Any club membership an a.q.t.p. 14 3 1 10 20 -19

The year qualification period for residence should be scrapped 7 5 2 9 25 -40

There should be a priority order imposed eg you must play for your county of birth if one exists 5 3 3 10 29 -55

If no county exists for you, you should be allowed to play for any county 7 2 10 7 22 -35

There were many comments, and here is a summary of them in no specific order. Similar comments have been grouped together. The

number of people making the suggestion is shown in brackets.

* If not played at Southwick, the venue should be no less central, preferably more so (2 comments).

* There is no reason to suppose that Southwick (plus perhaps Worthing) cannot continue to host the IC (5 comments). Supplementary comment that Southwick should keep enough lawns to run the IC, with support from the CA if necessary (2 comments).

* If second teams allowed, space should be a limiting factor (1 comment).

* Multiple counties - constraints if allowed:

a. Limitation by handicap, say top 6 < scratch (2 comments).

b. The counties concerned must be contiguous (4 comments).

c. Limitation to 2 or 3 counties (6 comments).

* Priorities on qualifications - what they should be if allowed:

a. Birth and residence equal first, competitor to choose (1 comment)

b. There should be a minimum of (1 to 5) years for residence qualification (7 comments).

c. There should be a minimum of 2 years for club membership qualification (1 comment).

d. There should be no qualifications, anyone can play for any county (1 comment).

* Leave the counties exactly as it is (6 comments plus two or three verbal comments to this effect).

* How about an official 'Counties' Dinner (1 comment)?

* Keep present format and if more than 12 entries have some sort of seeding so that all do not play all (2 comments).

* Put the IC at Cheltenham and the Mens and Womens at Southwick (1 comment).

* Make the IC more prestigious eg by having singles as well (1 comment).

* Have federations plus Scotland, Ireland and Wales (1 comment).

* This questionnaire is biased because it has only gone to 1990 IC players (1 comment). I was aware of this, hence



Competitors check the score at this year's Atco British Open Championship.

the publication in Croquet.

Don Gaunt,
Stonehouse, Glos.

Triple Peels

Dear Sir,
I certainly hadn't intended to 'lash out' at John Portwood's original article. Rather my reaction was prompted by a knowledge of my all too fallible abilities. Cross-wires in particular can be a rich source of disaster!

John Portwood's dislike of conventional tactics does seem to stress the need to embark on a delayed TP if the lift shot at the middle ball, or down the east boundary, is missed after the first break. I would make a number of points about this.

Firstly, I am sure most 'not quite experts' would be happy to take the second break round without attempting any peels, picking up the fourth ball when the opportunity arises. Towards the end of the break it is not too difficult to set up a straight triple, and at least get the 4-back peel done, either straight or posthumously. That leaves a position of penult and peg, with no more lifts to come. Hoop leaves using penult or rover, which are again fairly easy to set up, can lengthen the shot considerably, and work just as well with partner still for 4-back. By this stage of the break one should have the feel of the lawn well enough to be able to play with precision.

I would agree entirely that a delayed triple is more dangerous the more delayed it becomes. Whether to embark on one is likely to depend on factors such as the degree of difficulty of the lawn, calibre of the opponent, importance of the match, how well one is playing, etc.

However, my second point is that it is possible either to 'force' the longer shot, or to make a standard triple far more likely. Most standard leaves give the opponent three viable choices:

A. The 'desperation' short shot with either ball from A-baulk at the balls on the east boundary.

B. Lifting the ball near 2 and shooting at the ball near the peg, generally from B-baulk.

C. Lifting either ball and shooting down the east boundary.

There is not a lot that can be done about A, if the opponent is committed to the short shot, beyond leaving one's balls north of hoop 4, which makes the shot in C shorter.

The scope for variation lies in B, which is probably the most common choice. If the ball at the peg is left south of the peg, it lengthens the shot from B-baulk to more than 18 yards (unlike the old standard leave where the ball is generally left level with or north of the peg), or offers a shorter shot from A-baulk, which will however end up somewhere in B-baulk, making the pick-up for a standard triple reasonably

Your Letters

Your Letters

uncomplicated. (The successful completion may be a different matter!)

I believe one's chances can be further improved by fairly straightforward hoop leaves, as in diagrams A and B (which is an exact mirror image of the new standard leave).

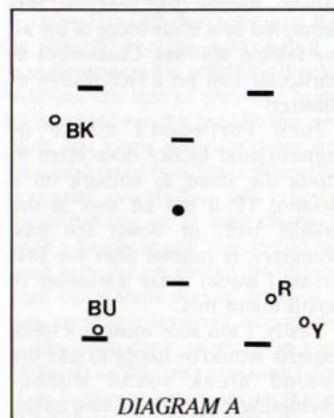


DIAGRAM A

Yellow for 1; Red for 4-back.
(From Wylie's 'Expert Croquet Tactics')

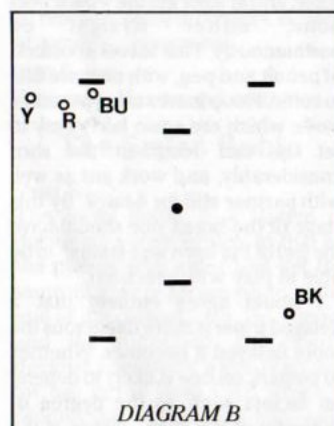


DIAGRAM B

Yellow for 2; Red for 4-back.

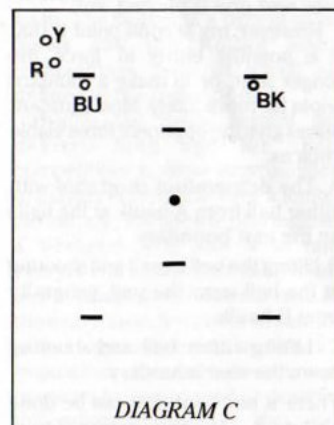


DIAGRAM C

Yellow for 2; Red for 4-back.

I make no claims for the invention of these. I suppose the 'dream leave' version of diagram B would be diagram C, which offers no really safe shot at all though a shorter 'desperation' shot. However, it would be spectacularly difficult to set up.

These leaves are of course particularly useful when the opponent has one ball round, and he can be 'forced' to play his forward ball by leaving it in the hoop. I fully accept that one can't 'force' one's opponent

to do anything. On more than one occasion my opponent has played the 'wrong' ball, but it should be an expensive shot to miss.

As I have not been playing the advanced game that long, I can't really answer the questionnaire John Portwood sets. However, I would say that the standard triple simply involves giving up a 4-ball break for a straightforward 3-ball, and further that it is not compulsory to attempt a delayed triple. Mark Saurin's point is well made, though, that at the highest level one simply must go for a quick finish, as the standard of shooting is so high. My experience is that excessively tactical play tends to be punished, and one is left wishing the more aggressive option had been taken.

So my personal feeling about John Portwood's tactic is that it offers too much potential for disaster. But like any innovative idea, it needs to be tested by extended trial in the field. I look forward to seeing it being played!

Simon Tuke,
Parson's Green.

The Handicap System

Dear Sir,
Imperfect it may be, but our handicap system is the only reference standard we have at present that professes to measure the relative proficiency of croquet players of all abilities. This is reflected in the fact that, for all but the top players, entry to level tournaments is determined by current handicap, as are decisions concerning which class a player is assigned to in a class event.

I therefore find the latest recommendations of the Handicap Coordinating Committee astonishing and completely illogical.

If a player of handicap 6 beats a player of handicap 3 in a handicap game, that is no cause for surprise; if the handicap procedure were perfect, he would win half his handicap games against that opponent (or any other). As the Committee suggest, therefore, if a player has recently been winning 60% or 70% of his handicap games, then that is a good indication that his handicap should come down (with reverse conclusion if he is currently losing that percentage). Note that it is unlikely that such success is solely due to greater skilfulness in the art of receiving and giving bisques: some measure of improvement in stroke play is almost certainly involved.

When, however, a player of handicap 6 beats a player of handicap 3 in a level game, that is a very strong indication that, for at least one of them, their current handicaps may not reflect their current playing standards. And, if a player in a level tournament has beaten several players of lower handicap, that is, surely, a most powerful argument for a reduction in handicap. To recommend that

handicaps should not be altered as a result of level play seems to me quite indefensible.

The best way of escaping from our present system of ad hoc handicap adjustments is to make the procedure automatic. The following suggestions are offered in the hope of stimulating a discussion. If the principle could be accepted, then there would obviously be plenty of scope for varying the details before the scheme was implemented.



John Norris in play at the Gateshead Garden Festival Croquet Classic competition.

Each player of handicap 20 or less would be issued with a card of suitable format and he would take the card with him wherever he takes his mallet. The result of every competitive singles game, handicap or level, would be recorded on the card and (if this were felt to be necessary) it could be initialled by each opponent. Private 'friendly' games would not be included, but singles games in all organized club competitions would count, as would singles games in inter-club matches (league or friendly) and, of course, CA Tournaments and Events.

The idea is that each player will have a rating as well as a handicap. Initially, the handicap (H) would be correlated with a marker point (M) on the rating scale, for example,

H	M	H	M
-2	440	7½	250
-1½	430	8	240
-1	420	9	230
-½	410	10	220
0	400		
½	390		
		19	130
		20	120

Each win (loss) in a handicap game will increase (decrease) the player's rating by 1. In level play, if the player with the better handicap wins, neither player's rating will change. But if the player with the better handicap loses a level game, then his rating will decrease and the victor's rating will increase according to the following scheme.

Difference in handicaps: ½ or 1	Change in rating: 1
Difference in handicaps: 1½ or 2	Change in rating: 2
Difference in handicaps: 2½ or 3	Change in rating: 3
Difference in handicaps: 3½ or 4	Change in rating: 4
etc.	

As soon as a player's rating increases or decreases to the next marker point, his handicap will immediately change to the corresponding value. In this way, the procedure becomes completely automatic and no subjective intervention by handicappers is required.

Some readers may raise the objection that clubs might introduce a proliferation of frivolous competitions in order to convert 'friendly' games into competition games, but I do not think many clubs would countenance such chicanery: and, even if they did, would it really matter?

Clubs could, of course, introduce their own extension of the scheme for beginners with handicaps of 21 to 30, so that players would acquire the habit of carrying a card as naturally as they carry their mallet and shoes. Also, with suitable modifications, it might be possible to merge the above proposals with the croquet grading system and so provide a unified and rational structure for players of all standards.

Roger F. Wheeler,
Brimsfield.

The Gazette

Dear Sir,
I have been receiving our Gazette 'Croquet' for a number of years now. We have seen a number of improvements recently - more photographs, an appealing cover, concise reports of tournaments, etc. all of which I approve of. In addition however we have had reports of wildlife, paper folding etc. which appeal to other people. What I believe is lacking however is a body of factual information. I suggest that when a croquet enthusiast picks up the magazine for the first time they are looking for information.

What form of information am I promoting? I put forth the following categories; Intermediate and Advanced coaching, croquet equipment selection, construction and maintenance, and croquet lawn care and groundsmanship.

We have the benefit of Bill Lamb's beginners' coaching notes but it stops there, apart from the occasional puzzles. Martin French recently wrote a most welcome description on the proper setting of hoops. And we have had occasional articles from horticultural companies on aspects of lawn care. All of these articles are most valuable. Can we have more?

Would it be possible to commission a 'Which' croquet mallet once a year? It would be useful to have a tabulation of what manufacturers are offering in terms of materials, weights, luxuries, and of course price. It may be possible to persuade Bernard Neal to offer some guidance on the choice of balls from the growing number of types on the market.

Continued....

Your Letters

I know that it is very easy to sit remotely and suggest bright ideas. It is a different matter to get people to actually do things. I have suggested to Keith Aiton that he may like to write a series of notes for advanced players. He did not dismiss the idea out of hand and given sufficient encouragement may well produce the goods. I would be willing to supply the intermediate coaching material, provided that no one would have their toes stepped on and be offended. Even if some of the ideas presented do not stand up to argument they will act as a catalyst for debate on the letters page and hence everyone would benefit. I hope that Bill Lamb would be happy to expand his beginners coaching notes.

Being a series of articles they would permit people to collect a body of data together in one place for ready reference.... 'let's see what they say in Croquet'. Additionally it would hopefully save people starting from scratch trying to get data together as I had to when procuring the information on how to lay a croquet lawn from scratch.

I could offer some Intermediate Coaching Notes which have been used in the Oxford Club for a season now and have been found useful, although they are still in a state of flux. I also have material prepared on the specification for laying a croquet lawn and the construction and maintenance of croquet equipment.

However it may be that free space in the magazine is already limited, but you are welcome to call on the above.

Dr Ian Plummer,
Balliol College,
Oxford.

Contributions are always welcome, and I hope to include some of Ian's material in later issues. Any other offers or comments would be helpful - Ed.

Townsend's Almanack

Dear Sir,
Having recently been loaned a copy of the 1990 Almanack, I was thoroughly disgusted with Mr Walter's lengthy and critical comments that form the first section. It is indeed fortunate that this publication will never be a best seller, and few outside the Croquet world are likely to see it.

Where are these clubs that fail to welcome newcomers, and apart from a game or two of Golf croquet, leave them to flounder? Every CA member has a copy of the Audited Balance Sheet; on whose authority has Mr Walters the right to publish his version of our figures - and some of the figures seem to be tailored to fit his attack - and criticise the hard earned salaries some of our officials are paid?

TUNBRIDGE WELLS A New Home

Report from Audrey Howell

The Royal Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club, based in the village of Frant for twenty years, has now moved to a new site at Hawkenbury Recreation Ground within the Royal Borough. Hence the recently-acquired 'Royal' title. The Club now has the use of 2 full-sized lawns with clubhouse facilities provided by Tunbridge Wells Council, something we have been trying to persuade them to do for the past couple of years.

Although the lawns need to be brought up to a much higher standard and we have a few teething troubles, we are confident that with improved facilities we can increase the membership and expand the Club's activities so that we can participate in the national programme of tournaments and inter-club matches. Meantime we shall continue with our coaching courses for beginners, Club days, friendly games and Club tournaments. As we are now on 'public display' so to speak, we have had many interested onlookers enquiring about the game and the Club, and it bodes well for the future.

We have been fortunate over the last few years in having a nucleus of loyal and enthusiastic members who have managed to enjoy their croquet despite the trials and tribulations we encountered at Frant. The lack of toilets and proper clubhouse amenities did not lend itself to inter-club activity and we have always had a running battle with the rabbits who seemed intent on digging up the grass, especially around the hoops, in spite of ferrets and other nasty

Then we learn how expensive Croquet is becoming. Ever tried to join a good Tennis or Golf Club, Mr Walters? And they charge a hefty Green Fee for every game.

His sly reference to the Cricket Pitch at Hurlingham is unforgivable. It was only a few years ago in the Opens that some of the top players asked to play there in preference to the superb verdant and consequently less challenging Terrace Lawns. The Hurlingham Club generously loans its lawns free and we are all extremely grateful.

Is the South African problem suitable material for an Almanack? Mr Walters' views are of course those of most youngsters medicated and educated at the Tax payers expense, who have never set foot in the country. It appears the Welfare State has failed to teach 'Loyalty to the Firm'. This young man owes a lot to the Croquet World, and it is sad that he should choose this manner 'to bite the hand that fed him'.

Sarah Hampson,
Hunstanton.



The Royal Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club's new lawns at Hawkenbury Recreation Ground.

remedies. (Animal lovers please note - we do like the furry creatures in their right setting but it was disheartening to arrive at the lawns to see the damage they were causing.)

The Hurricane of 1987 felled some forty trees around our club, destroying our pavilion and damaging the lawns. The previous week we had just spent \$400 on a new pavilion roof. It is perhaps sad that the recent death of Gerald Williams who bequeathed the lawns to the club has possibly coincided with the demise of the Frant site. The storms this year brought down two more massive fir trees and it seems well nigh impossible for us to restore the lawns to any playable standard. It has heralded the end of an era.

We are, however, counting our blessings in the fact that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has shown an interest at long last in promoting croquet within the area and, if rumours are correct, from the 'ashes'

of Frant a new and brighter future for the Club looks to be on the horizon. We may only have 2 fairly mediocre lawns at the moment but we shall push for even better facilities and, who knows, perhaps in the future our Club may be on the tournament venue for many of you.

Meanwhile, don't forget to 'doff' your mallet when you meet any Tunbridge Wells croquet royalists!!

★ APOLOGY ★

The Editor regrets the late publication of this issue, and hopes to be back on schedule in November.

Southport: 26-28 May QEGS Dominates

Report by Andrew Bennet

The conditions were superb and the lawns a lot faster than two clubs who boast of their fast lawns which I had visited shortly beforehand. Getting in front of the first hoop on lawns 1 and 2 was a real test of skill. It was predictable, therefore, that the low-bisqued players would have the advantage. However, Joyce Taylor, the senior player, off handicap 11, revels in these conditions with her delicate touch and beat your reporter by a large margin on the first day.

Andy Holgate is in his third season and at last the stroke-play is matching his understanding of the game. Having been reduced from 17 to 15 the previous weekend, he was brought down to 12 during play and to 9 afterwards.

Adrian Saurin won his block with determination, and Dan McCormick, by winning his block, proved that his handicap of 0 was too high. On the last morning, it transpired

that the fourth block winner was myself on a points-count! An all-QEGS semi-final! The gallery was not expecting my jump-shots through 1 and 3-back to work, but you are still allowed to do them, even at my age. In our semi-final, Adrian played correct end-game tactics when I was set to finish and he won by 3.

Andy's bisques were no defence against Dan's devastating form, and in the final Dan beat Adrian in two straight games. In the play-off, Andy mangled me comprehensively.

Dan is now rightly in the realm of minus-players, but do not be put off by reading what happened. We had visitors from many clubs who enjoyed a sunny Bank-Holiday tournament, expertly managed by Diana and Don Williamson. Don, with Paul Stoker, did their usual early-morning work on the hoops, even after Paul had re-set many hoop-holes the evening before the tournament.

This tournament was heavily over-subscribed as usual. Apply early next year!

Club News

Tournament Reports

Harrow Oak: 9-10 June Close Struggle at Harrow

Report by Roger Jackman

On a fresh Saturday morning 14 players assembled at Harrow Oak eager to play, only to find everywhere locked up (including the toilets) and the manager earnestly searching for a key. He claimed the locks had been changed but we wondered if Harrow had paid the Council's rent! However, a park keeper soon appeared and after some hurried hoop setting play was under way.

After the first round matches it became obvious that the player to watch out for was Mark Firth, a 17 handicap from West Park.

The game of the second round was between Dennis Goulding (3) of the home club and Mike Hammelev (15) of West Park. Dennis pegged out Mike's ball while his own other ball was still on hoop 1 and Mike had 3 bisques left. Mike soon got his second ball to the peg but had used the bisques and then began shooting at the peg from E to W and W to E while Dennis rapidly caught up, mainly with 2 ball breaks. Finally, with Dennis having a rush to peg lined up in corner 1, Mike shot at the double, narrowly missed and Dennis finished off an exciting game. Mark Firth continued with a +20 win.

In round 3 Dennis Goulding had a close win, +3, over Derek Powell to register his third win out of 3 and that left Mark Firth and Geoff Youd, a 10 handicap from High Wycombe, as the only two who could draw level. Mark set off with a rush and built up a lead but then frittered his bisques away and Geoff was catching up

when, with the park keeper waiting to lock the gates, the manager pegged the game down at 8.45pm.

After the first day, three players were vying for the lead, and four others were lurking close behind, with 2 wins out of 3. The four ladies gracing the tournament with their presence had only managed 2 wins between them out of 12 games but things were to look up for most of them on Sunday.

9.15am on Sunday saw Geoff and Mark resume their close struggle until at 10.00am Geoff won +1 on time.

The fourth round produced wins for Dennis Goulding over Geoff Youd and for Mark Firth (+22), David Drazin and Martin Kolbuszewski, giving Dennis a clear lead with 4 wins and four players on 3 wins.

The fifth round resulted in Mark Firth twenty-sixing Dennis Goulding and Geoff Youd beating David Drazin, leaving a triple tie at the top. The manager, Martin Kolbuszewski, playing Roger Jackman, your reporter, said he wanted a quick game. Martin hit in on the fourth turn and set up a break but stuck in hoop 1 with green. Roger using a bisque set up a break and went to penultimate where he stuck in the hoop. Martin hit in and made an all round break, double peeled pink and pegged it out. Using 2 of his remaining 3 bisques Roger set up a three ball break and with the aid of his last bisque when he over ran his approach to 4 back, went all the way round to win in 55 minutes.

Roehampton: 4-9 June The Ed Dymock Show

Report by Norman Gooch

The title may lead you to believe that this is a review of an American TV Chat Show. Not a bit of it. The chat was certainly there, but the accent was broad Yorkshire as Ed bemoaned missed opportunities. Not that there were many of those, for Ed played 18 games in 6 days, winning 16 of them. He lost once in the block stage of both the X handicap and the B levels, but qualified for the later knock-out stages and went on to win both the Trevelyan Bowl and the Brooke Cup. Not satisfied with that, he earned his Silver Medal in the process and then went on to win the Handicap Doubles also. He was the highest bisquer in the B levels, and after his successful week the handicapper rightly reduced him by 2 to 6.

Mrs Chris Osmond also played well throughout the week, winning the C class and reaching the semi-final of the big handicap. Her reward was a handicap reduction from 9 to 8. Will she do an 'Ed' in 1991?

The other winner was Nigel Aspinall who won the Ranelagh Gold

Cup, not for the first time. He had not played in this tournament for a number of years. It was a pleasure to watch his immaculate play, winning through 4 games to reach the final with the 4 opponents totalling only 13 hoops between them. In the final John Greenwood fought hard to retain the cup but was finally defeated by 4.

There were a number of unusual incidents, both on and off the courts. At the beginning of a 22-point game, a player went to great lengths to peel a partner ball through hoop 1 before scoring that hoop with the strike ball, completely forgetting that all 22-point games were being played as a '1 and 5' start, thus rendering his elaborately contrived peel unnecessary. Another involved your correspondent in which he anticipated with a degree of certainty his total annihilation as his opponent took croquet to peg out from not more than 1 foot distant; the mallet hit the ground and missed the balls completely, leaving your scribe to hit in and extend the game sufficiently

By 5.00pm Mark Firth had clocked up another +26 win over Roger Jackman, and Dennis Goulding had also reached the 5 win mark. However, due to his late start in the morning, Geoff Youd had only just started his last game.

Mark, Dennis and Geoff had all beaten each other and if a 3 way tie resulted there would have to be a shoot out. The manager decided to hold the shoot out before the final game was completed so that the others could leave. Among the managers suggestions to resolve the tie was the idea that the player who could play a single shot containing the most faults would win! Food for thought. However, he settled for each player having 10 shots at hoop 1 from A baulk. This resulted in Geoff scoring 3, Mark 2 and Dennis 1. Geoff now had to win his last game to win the tournament or if he lost Mark would be the winner.

In gathering gloom, with the park keeper again hovering, a tired Geoff finally got ahead of Mike Hammelev



Cheltenham's resident fox - a frequent visitor to tournaments this year.

and held on to win +5 on time and register his first tournament win. Martin presented the usual Harrow Cup with the winnings inside and suggested that Geoff would be hearing from the handicapper. Surely Mark will be losing several bisques as well. Congratulations to Mark Firth and David Drazin who achieved Bronze awards and to the three ladies who came fighting back and finished with 3 wins each.

The 9 visitors were warmly welcomed and entertained by the 5 Harrow members and our thanks go to them and our special thanks to Martin - Manager, Referee, Caterer et al for giving us such a pleasant weekend.

RESULTS

5 wins: Geoff Youd, Mark Firth, and Dennis Goulding.

3 wins: David Drazin, Roger Jackman, Martin Kolbuszewski, Alex O'Connor, Derek Powell, Celia Steward and Jill Waters.

2 wins: Mike Hammelev, Ted Matthews and David Ruscombe-King.

0 wins: Celia Pearce.

to lose by a respectable margin.

Off the courts we had 2 helicopters in a 'near miss'. I cannot claim to have seen the incident, being more interested at the time in Stefan Edberg and others warming up for Wimbledon on the adjacent tennis courts.

An abiding memory for me will be of the airliners overhead every 90 seconds, with Concorde, its nose pointing to the croquet, passing over at just after 6pm each evening. What a wonderful sight it is but how noisy; only the thunder beat it!

The Clerk of the Weather was not very kind to us, as we played in heavy rain, sleet and hail, with a wind that persisted for most of the week. But the same could not be said of the Manager or the Roehampton Club. The visitors were greeted with a genuine warmth which made the weather almost irrelevant, and the Manager combined that warmth with such humour and efficiency that it was indeed a pleasure to get cold and wet!

RESULTS

Ranelagh Gold Cup
(Advanced play: 7 entries)

Block Play-off

G.N. Aspinall bt M.J.B. Haggerston +23;
J.D. Greenwood bt C. Southern +24.

Final
Aspinall bt Greenwood +4.

The Brooke Cup
(Level: 11 entries)

Block Play-off

E. Dymock bt R. Best +3(T); Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald bt A. Thomas +12.

Final
Dymock bt Mrs Macdonald +8.

The Thorpe Cup
(Handicap: 9 bisques or over. 3 entries)

Winner: Mrs C. Osmond.

The Trevelyan Bowl
(Handicap, 4 blocks. 18 entries)

Play-Off

E. Dymock bt L. Wharrad +5; Mrs C. Osmond bt N.J. Gooch +8; D. Magee bt R. Best +9; I.P.M. Macdonald bt M. Haggerston +3.

Semi-Finals
Dymock bt Mrs Osmond +3; Macdonald bt Magee +5.

Final
Dymock bt Macdonald +13.

Ryde: 4-9 June A family motto disclosed

Report by Deborah Latham

Climatic conditions proved to be something of a problem in this year's competition - not during the week itself (although there was lying water in many a pair of shoes thanks to Wednesday's downpour), but the preceding two months, a distinct dearth of rain during that period contributing to somewhat patchy playing surfaces. The players did not let this spoil their enthusiasm, of course, but it did introduce a greater than usual element of chance into shots over the length of the court!

The 'C' class competition included three players experiencing their first tournament: Ted Salisbury and John and Christine Bourn. All three contributed to the good standard of play in the event, and as a bonus John favoured us with the sight of his violently red socks.... Faith Fewtrell made a valiant stab at a bronze medal, and husband Bob expelled the most tremendous whoop of glee when he made his twelve hoops without a bisque in one of his class games. 'Yaa-hoo - that's my silver!' he yelled, then assumed a slightly sheepish expression when someone pointed out that he had to win the game as well. 'Oh, I forgot that bit!' he admitted, but he went on to win it anyway, so that was that!

Despite this sort of performance, and with the additional challenge of John Corrie (visiting from Littleton, near Winchester), it was Christine who, having amassed the greatest number of points, emerged from the group of those with an equal number of wins to take the Hutton Cup - the first cup she has won for anything, croquet or otherwise, so I was told; that, therefore, was a very satisfactory conclusion to her first tournament!

The Chapman Cup was not in such close contention, as, despite the best efforts of his opponents, Phil Kennerly won all his games, with double figure wins in all cases; Bill Platt pursued him into second place, while Val Tompkinson and Mary Robinson fought valiant rearguard actions. Mary was probably distracted by having to spend half of her time playing croquet and the reminder dealing with the catering, in which she was aided by Elaine Salisbury, Doris Cox and Diana Erith, while Val claims she can only play when it's raining, so Wednesday was her only chance!

As the 'B' and Open events had only four competitors in each, they were played as two series of blocks, with the possibility of a play-off if there were two series winners. However, as in the 'B' class, there was a clear victor in the Open. Mick Tompkinson was playing very well and - more importantly! - consistently well, and never looked in any danger of failing to regain the title of Champion of the Isle of Wight (after

a seven-year hiatus), winning all his games with little trouble. Manager Roy Newnham's customary steady play gained him the runner-up position. Laurence Latham was not doing well, complaining that he was only capable of beating his wife, and in the first of their two games didn't even make a really good job of that!

but feel it was extremely representative of their relationship that Phil laughed so hard he turned nearly the same delicate shade of maroon as his waterproofs!

Phil also won the Swiss for those who found themselves ejected from the main handicap. The man responsible for putting him out of the



Trophy winners at Ryde's 71st annual tournament (L to R): Philip Kennerley, Christine Bourn, Mick Tompkinson, Deborah Latham, and Bob Fewtrell.

If you have by now deduced who it was (bloodied but unbowed) that came last, I cannot confess to being very worried if you don't keep your conclusions to yourself....!

The doubles competition was played as a Swiss event, and the subsequent winners of the 'C' and 'B' classes combined to sweep majestically through the field without defeat. I must comment upon how much I enjoy 'listening' to Phil and Christine playing doubles - the repartee is equally as enjoyable as the croquet! Mind you, when Christine's half of the Birch Cups disintegrated in her hands I can't help

primary competition was Bob Fewtrell, who was among those who got a handicap reduction at the end of the week. Unfortunately for him, he came up against me on one of my better days in the final (I have to make the most of them, because they don't happen all that often!), and so Bob had the Benet Cup as the runner-up while I keep the family name on the Dibley Goblet for a second year (about which I am relieved, primarily because the Dibley is an aesthetically pleasing but simple goblet and therefore much easier to keep clean - the Latham motto being 'Who Wins Cleans'!).

Surbiton: 9-10 June The Surbiton World Cup

Report by Mark Saurin

After two years of absence, I finally took it upon myself to return to Surbiton to play in this year's open weekend. I arrived to find a new clubhouse but the same old players were unmistakably there. As George Noble put it, the tournament was split into the 'Young Capables' and the 'Wrinkley Beer-drinking Incapables'. The event was managed by Richard Hilditch and was played as a Swiss.

The first round saw few surprises, except Aiton continuing his excellent form by losing to Burge, and Saurin tactically losing to Noble. The manager was then seen asking players if they wanted 'World Cup Leave' to view the next instalment on the box. Good man that manager!

Round 2 saw Fulford lose his first match on British soil this season to Cordingley, but more importantly Romania beat Russia 2-0. Round 3,

for those deciding to play, took place during the match itself, which meant Mr Aiton deemed his first dozen turns at least, against Anthony Miller. What was funny was the sight of Anthony Miller biking forwards and backwards from lawn 7 relaying the ball positions to Keith who then gladly deemed as the match livened up.

Round 4 again saw little surprises as Italy v Austria began with the croquet players showing how much passion they could arouse over a football match, with even Robert Prichard, who didn't know which team was which, getting excited. Accompanying the World Cup match was an excellent supper from Diana Wright. Italy 1 Austria 0.

Sunday morning arrived with Reeve beating the luckless Cordingley (one of those days Phil!) and Saurin shocking Fulford. Round

RESULTS

Isle of Wight Championship

(Advanced All-play all: 4 entries)

6 wins: M.G. Tompkinson.

3 wins: R.W. Newnham.

2 wins: L.V. Latham.

1 win: Mrs D. Latham.

Chapman Cup

(Level: All play all. 4 entries)

6 wins: P. Kennerley.

4 wins: W. Platt.

1 win: Mrs M. Robinson, Mrs V. Tompkinson.

Hutton Cup

(Handicap; All play all. 6 entries)

3 wins: Mrs C. Bourn (winner), R. Fewtrell

(runner-up); J.R. Corrie.

2 wins: Mrs F. Fewtrell, J. Bourn, E. Salisbury.

Dibley Cup

(Handicap knockout: 14 entries)

Semi-Finals

R. Fewtrell bt P. Kennerley +9; Mrs D. Latham bt R.W. Newnham +11.

Final

Mrs Latham bt Fewtrell +16.

Obituary

Mrs G.W. Solomon

Older Associates in particular will be sad to hear of the death in her middle eighties of Pat Solomon, mother of our President.

An Associate for over forty years, she never quite reached a scratch handicap, but she played in the Ladies Field Cup no less than 5 times in the 9 times it was played between 1962 and 1973.

Sincere sympathy is expressed to John and his family.

Richard Rothwell.

RESULTS

6 wins: M. Saurin, D. Reeve.

5 wins: R. Hilditch, R. Fulford, I. Bond, L. Palmer.

4 wins: P. Cordingley, D. Wiggins, T. Mrozinski, A. Gregory.

3 wins: M. Stevens, I. Burridge, D. Prentis, G. Hopewell, G. Noble, R. Prichard, S. Battison, A. Miller.

2 wins: D. Caporn, J. Sheraton-Davis.

1 win: K. Aiton, T. Burge, J. Straw.

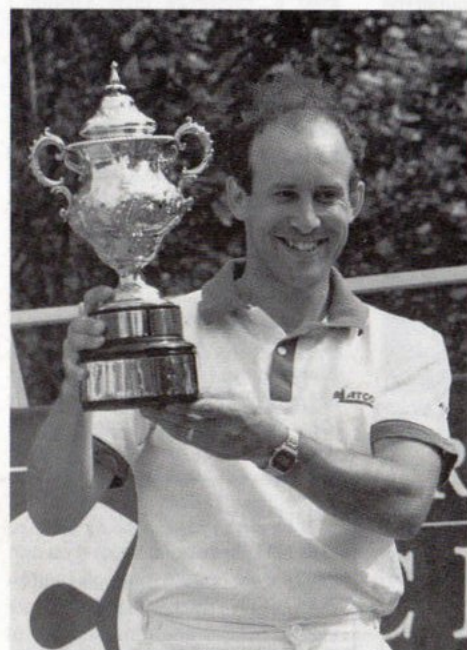
0 wins: W. Thornhill.

Tournament Reports

Hurlingham: 15-22 July Mulliner wins 100th Open Championship

Report by David Peterson

Fittingly this year's Opens, the hundredth held since 1873, saw a return to traditional values. Last year we had had Continental Airlines, intercontinental competitors, and world class play spread across most of the South East; this year we reverted to Hurlingham, Richard Hilditch came back to throw his weight around with his customary enthusiasm, and last year's crowds had vanished.



Steve Mulliner with the Opens Trophy.

Gone too was the international brigade, especially after the last minute withdrawal of an American contingent who presumably had mistaken the event for the World Championship with which we cohabited last year. Many old friends and foes were also absent including Cheltenham's entire Club team, a couple of Prichards, all native Irishmen, and a gaggle of Northerners (Lewis, Aldridge, Irwin), as well as McCullough, Solomon, Croker, Hyne, Harrison, Neal, and Palmer: all perhaps having learnt something from Saurin's Test selection. Most worryingly of all, women were entirely absent: the first time in this event since 1981. Some of the younger players seemed preoccupied by this theme, but fortunately the absence of the fairer sex did not lead to any outbreaks of cheating or general caddishness.

'Youth will come here and beat' wrote Ibsen, as presumably all are aware in this the hundredth anniversary of 'Hedda Gabler'. This is certainly what most of us expected in this year's Championship. Most of the speculation centred on the possibility of Robert Fulford adding to his already splendid array of titles (Northern, President's, Western, and Men's), but there were another fourteen players under twenty-five, all desperate to outbrat him, and Mark Avery at twenty-four was the fourth oldest of the eight seeds.

As the traditional aperitif of doubles slipped to the Sunday this year, David Maugham and Ian Burridge, who between them boast one year's Opens experience, showed little respect to Eddie Bell and John Rose, previous finalists and in this company the coelacanths of British croquet. Fulford's first appearance, made in the doubles with Chris Clarke against Chris Haslam and Dan McCormick, produced an aggregate age for all four players of about 73. It also produced an excellent match as a Fulford triple was needed to rectify a loss to the even younger youngsters in the second.

Nigel Aspinall, playing with Steve Mulliner, won their first round match with one triple, and Mulliner (always striving to outdo) promptly lost their second with two. For Duncan Reeve very coolly finished off after a Mulliner TPO in the third, and Aspinall had again stumbled over the harmless looking Comish. Mark Avery and Phil Cordingley, abandoned by their regular partners, made a better pair on paper than on the lawns. In a match in which all three games were tight, they lost rather improbably to David Wiggins and Jeff Dawson, who relied on a sound recipe of relentless lift-hitting, thus taking their place in the semi-final against Comish and Reeve.

The other berths were filled rather uncomfortably by their respective seeds, Clarke and Fulford against Keith Aiton and Mark Saurin being a poorly balanced affair, 'slim line' croquet against a more 'all round' game. However, it was to produce the best turn of the week. Having won the first game emphatically with a TP, Clarke and Fulford seemed to be about to take the second. They were both for peg and laid up with a rush to it, while poor little Mark Saurin was thirty yards away having had his partner from him untimely ripped. Undaunted, he hit in and embarked on what can only be described as a two-and-a-half ball break, for at no stage did he have complete control of all three balls.

He advanced from two back running longish hoops but always getting the rush when needed, and despite intense pressure dealt with the game in one turn. What was particularly satisfying was that this took place in the evening to the entertainment of the swollen gallery. Unfortunately it also meant the deciding game had to be postponed until the next morning. As so often happens the resumed match was then rather an anti climax, and with the atmosphere gone Clarke and Fulford won by 26, to join Comish and Reeve in the final.

The manager proved generally uncooperative with the press. Doubtless he was seeking to protect his players, but it left me with no clear structure for my report as the order of matches and rounds was thoroughly incoherent. Hence I leave the Doubles Championship in a chronologically over-advanced position to return to Monday morning and concentrate upon the Singles.

Youth is no respecter of reputation, and Saurin and Clarke eagerly set about proving this by losing their first round matches. Clarke, back in relatively good form after last year's disasters, was unlucky to find Michael Heap playing so well. Saurin's achievement was much more spectacular. From one game up he managed to persuade himself into succumbing to Maurice Woodmansee 'the Tasmanian Devil', whose steady play and good shooting, coupled with the almost universal hostility of a lawn 4 evening gallery which warms to this sort of ending as a schoolboy does to dissecting spiders, wore him down.

Saurin sportingly suggested that he might be the only player to have been selected for the McRobertson team without having ever won a match (or previous game) in the Opens, and he was clearly in no mood to endanger this fine record.

David Openshaw was cunningly holding himself back until Wednesday, waiting for his quarter to become seedless, and Mulliner and Fulford broodily exchanged pairs of triples from opposite sides of the draw. Play was generally poorer than last year, with just the occasional burst of brilliance, almost always when the match was on one of the easier lawns. One outstanding example was an imprecisely timed game which Russell Collighan won with a triple in approximately twenty minutes,

then going on to lose the match.

The second round of singles saw a world record set when Woodmansee and Ian Vincent, thoughtfully put on the fastest lawn by the manager, used the entirety of the new ten hour time limit: an event cherished by the privileged few who saw it. Burridge, the new Welsh find, led overnight against Openshaw before the latter was shocked into playing well, something uncharacteristic for him in these earlier rounds.

Meanwhile, Mark Avery, who had played so well last year, was looking off-form and uninterested. He dropped a game to Ian Bond in his first match, and then went game and break down to John Walters. Written off by most, he made a commendable recovery to win the third with a triple, but the aggression, inspiration and determination which so characterised his performances last season were lacking. In contrast sixteen year old Chris Haslam grew in stature with every game he played. Gaining confidence as the tournament progressed he overcame a whitewash triple in the first against Heap, and dealt with Dayal Gunasekera in two straight games on a nippy cricket pitch lawn which ought to have favoured the deft Sri Lankan's famous touch.

Thus on Friday morning we had the splendid prospect of the four quarter-finals being played simultaneously on the four main lawns. Openshaw and Mulliner started as clear favourites against the two non-seeds to have got this far, Haslam and George Noble, while Avery against Maugham and Aspinall against Fulford seemed to be more evenly balanced. In the event all four matches were relatively one sided, and finished within half an hour of each other in time for a late lunch.



Youth was at the helm this year.

Maugham fully exposed the weaknesses displayed by Avery in earlier rounds, and beat him comfortably, despite sticking twice at 4-back when it would have been easier to finish the match. The loser was left staring down his mallet shaft in disbelief after a number of missed lift shots. Maugham is probably the player who has improved most so far this year. His swing and manner around the lawn are not dissimilar to those of Colin Irwin, and despite an unwieldy style he is not an untidy

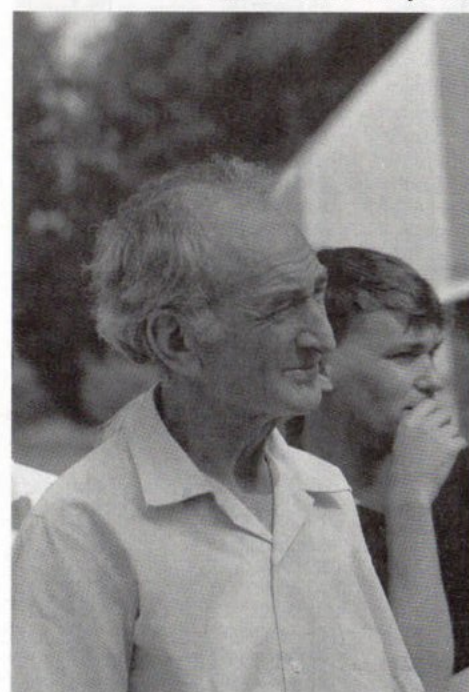
player. Unfortunately he too seems to be keen on Ibsen, and he takes his sartorial stance from Act 5 of 'An Enemy Of The People'.

'You should never have your best trousers on when you turn out to fight for freedom and truth!'

Haslam's fine run came nervously to an end at the mallet of Openshaw which produced its second TP in as many matches, and Noble was similarly despatched by Mulliner, although not as quickly. Aspinall, in the unaccustomed role of underdog, put up the toughest resistance. His first game against Fulford was an interesting struggle, as much psychologically as tactically, as the master of the 70s and early 80s came to terms with both his own vulnerability on single ball strokes and the aggressive values of Fulford's New Croquet.

The youngster was first round with his now customary peel on partner through first, but he offered Nigel an insultingly short lift. The initiative was seized and eventually Nigel followed to 4-back, promoting Fulford's clip to third to make any triple attempt more difficult for the opponent. A plausible straight triple attempt saw Nigel for peg and rover before Fulford hit the sort of shot that enables games to be snatched and championships to be won. He won the game by three, and Aspinall's effective resistance was over.

Openshaw's fine play fell apart against Fulford in the semi-final on Saturday morning. He was crushed quite effortlessly as Fulford brought his triple peel tally to seven in ten games. He had reached his first final in this event without dropping a game, and despite a tough draw. Maugham and Mulliner meanwhile were involved in a much closer match. Playing exaggeratedly slowly and plodding around the lawn as if to put off his notoriously tense



Maurice Woodmansee, whose mallet with its off-centre shaft caused some consternation.

opponent, Maugham took round the first break. Remarkably Michael Heap started and finished an entire plate game before David had even made 2 back.

Mulliner hit and went for a TPO, quickly abandoned when he failed the first peel. Then with his second ball he failed to get partner into position at 4-back and so started the TPO again, only to revert with a peel after fifth to a delayed triple on

partner. Confused? Then I must be describing it well, because we certainly were. There was unkind speculation that the heat, which was a constant factor during the week, might have unduly affected our dear chairman.

In reality, what he was doing was keeping his options open. If the peel on partner after fifth had failed he would have continued with the TPO. However, it all proved immaterial as he failed at 4-back, offering Maugham a simple double to take the first game. The latter politely accepted only to grind to a halt at the very same hoop, graciously handing the game back to its rightful owner.

The second followed a similar pattern initially and a TPO rounded off a fine display of tactically aggressive play from Mulliner. Thus the top two seeds Fulford and Mulliner would play off for the Championship, a repeat of the matches which in the last year had decided the President's Cup, the Southern, the Westerns, and the Men's.

With Fulford involved in both singles and doubles finals, the pairs event was played on Saturday afternoon. Clarke and Fulford, losing finalists last year, began as favourites this time. They won in straight games, without any particular heroics or excitement, and despite a sterling rearguard action by Comish. Understanding and mutual respect have grown out of their initial rivalry, and they have proved themselves in the last two years to be the most accomplished pair in Britain.

The singles final on Saturday morning was disappointingly one-sided. Ignoring the increasingly common best-of-five format, it was played as a best-of-three, starting at 11.00. Following victories over Mulliner in both the President's Cup and the Men's Championship most people expected Fulford to complete the 'Grand Slam'. Maybe so many consecutive victories made it difficult for Robert to prepare himself psychologically. Mulliner in contrast never has any such problems. Fulford hit in on a couple of occasions, but never got going, and Mulliner won very easily in straight games, dominating proceedings throughout. He finished the second with a triple peel from a new standard leave, but was never really called upon to produce any great play. It was rather an anti-climax. Mulliner seems at his best when crushing an opponent: the 1988 final against Aspinall, and his 1990 Test Match win against Jackson are comparable instances. His is not an instinct which thrives upon adversity, rather one which seeks to control and dominate.

Meanwhile the Plate had been providing us with evening matches and interesting vignettes. We saw some more of Maurice Woodmansee's splendid mallet with its off-centre shaft, and of four British internationals. Heap was the only one of these to make any of the running, and he and David Goacher set all the pace, but inevitably the winner came from those who had cunningly concentrated their efforts in one half. Thus the final was between Chris Clarke and Bill Lamb, and a comfortable win for the former capped off a good week for him, avenging himself on Heap along the way.

It only remains for me to thank our sponsors Atco for their generous and useful gifts, our perennial hosts the Hurlingham Club, and all of my opponents who made it possible for me to see so many games.

RESULTS

Atco British Open Championship

Round 1

J.O. Walters bt D.C.D. Wiggins +4, +26; L.J. Palmer bt W.E. Lamb -10, +8, +21; *D.B. Maugham bt D.C. Reeve +17, +26TP; M. French bt R.D.C. Prichard +16, +24; R.

Collighan bt M.J. Stevens +6, +9; K.C.T. Jones bt A.F. Sutcliffe +10, +2(T); I.G. Vincent bt B.C. Sykes -26, +9, +10; M. Woodmansee bt *M.A. Saurin -20, +17, +12; M.E.W. Heap bt *C.D. Clarke +9, +16; C.J. Haslam bt D.N.S. Peterson +21, +21; *D.K. Openshaw bt A.K. Gregory +10, +17; I.J. Burridge bt C. Southern +21, +25; *G.N. Aspinall bt A.J. Symons +22, +24; A.J. Mrozinski bt A.R.K. Miller +17, +5; *R.I. Fulford bt R.W. Ransom +26TP, +22TP; D.J. McCormick bt J.R. Hilditch +15, +11.



Chris Clarke & Robert Fulford, 1990 Doubles Champions, receive their Salvers from Michael Murray, Atco's Managing Director.

Round 2

Walters bt Palmer +13, +17; *M.N. Avery bt I.D. Bond +6, -19, +17; Maugham bt French +11, +26TP; S. Comish bt J.D. Greenwood -4, +1, +10; Jones bt Collighan +13, -26TP, +16; *S.N. Mulliner bt D.J. Goacher +17TP, +26TP; Vincent bt Woodmansee +26, -10, +10(T); G.W. Noble bt F.J.R. Landor +4, +4; Haslam bt Heap -26TP, +12, +24; D.L. Gunasekera bt E. Bell +20, +2; Openshaw bt Burridge -4, +9, +26; J.E. Guest bt J. Rose -13, +4, +14; Aspinall bt Mrozinski +25, +16; J.P. Dawson bt S. Tuke +11, +12; Fulford bt McCormick +16, +4; P. Cordingley bt K.M.H. Aiton +26, -6, +26.

Round 3

Avery bt Walters -26, +16, +16TP; Maugham bt Comish +5, +8TP; Mulliner bt Jones +17, +26; Noble bt Vincent +5, +3; Haslam bt Gunasekera +18, +19; Openshaw bt Guest +26TP, +10; Aspinall bt Dawson +17, +24; Fulford bt Cordingley +19TP, +14TP.

Round 4

Maugham bt Avery +17, +17; Mulliner bt Noble +25, +16TP; Openshaw bt Haslam +26, +17TP; Fulford bt Aspinall +3, +26TP.

Semi-Finals

Mulliner bt Maugham +6, +12TPO; Fulford bt Openshaw +26TP, +17TP.

Final

Mulliner bt Fulford +23, +24TP.

Atco British Open Doubles Championship

Round 1

R.W. Ransom & D.J. Goacher bt J.D. Greenwood & S. Tuke +16, +7; I. Burridge & D.B. Maugham bt E. Bell & J. Rose +20, +25TP; M.E.W. Heap & W.E. Lamb bt I. Bond & B. Sykes +4, +5; *G.N. Aspinall & S.N. Mulliner bt A. Gregory & A. Symons +26, +17TP; S. Comish & D. Reeve bt J.E. Guest & M.J. Stevens +16, +17.

Round 2

J.R. Hilditch & A.J. Mrozinski bt Ransom & Goacher +14, -11, +16; *K.M.H. Aiton & M.A. Saurin bt L. Palmer & J.O. Walters +26TP, +25; Burridge & Maugham bt Collighan & Woodmansee -4, +8, +26TP; *C.D. Clarke & R.I. Fulford

Atco British Open Championship

bt C. Haslam & D. McCormick +17, -4, +26TP; J. Dawson & D.C.D. Wiggins bt Heap & Lamb +17, +16; *M. Avery & P. Cordingley bt D. Gunasekera & R.D.C. Prichard +23, +13; Comish & Reeve bt Aspinall & Mulliner -17TP, +17, +14OTP; G. Noble & I.G. Vincent bt A.R.K. Miller & K.C.T. Jones +3, +4.

Round 3
Aiton & Saurin bt Hilditch & Mrozinski +8, -13, +6; Clarke & Fulford bt Burrigge & Maugham +2, +5; Dawson & Wiggins bt Avery & Cordingley -4, +5, +5; Comish & Reeve bt Noble & Vincent +2, +20.

Semi-Finals
Clarke & Fulford bt Aiton & Saurin +24TP, -2, +26; Comish & Reeve bt Dawson & Wiggins +4, +15.

Final
Clarke & Fulford bt Comish & Reeve +17, +15.

Croquet Association Plate

DRAW

Round 1
Goacher bt Ransom +24; Aiton bt Palmer +20; McCormick bt Symons +17; Woodmansee bt French +3; Southern bt Hilditch +7; Saurin bt Prichard +3; Heap bt Gregory +13; Sutcliffe bt Cordingley +24; Reeve bt Burrigge +4; Comish bt Dawson +14; Guest bt Wiggins +16; Gunasekera bt Clarke +4; Stevens bt Peterson +22; Tuke bt Collighan +17; Lamb bt Sykes +15.

Round 2
Goacher bt Aiton +1(T); McCormick bt Woodmansee +4; Saurin bt Southern +15; Heap bt Mrozinski +14; Reeve bt Sutcliffe +26TP; Comish bt Guest +25;



Spectators gathering for the awards ceremony.

Gunasekera bt Stevens +18TP; Lamb bt Tuke +12.

Round 3
Goacher bt McCormick +17; Heap bt Saurin +10; Reeve bt Comish +25TP; Lamb bt Gunasekera +22.

Semi-Finals
Goacher bt Heap +3; Lamb bt Reeve +25.

Final
Lamb bt Goacher +5.

PROCESS
Round 1
Goacher bt Sutcliffe +3; Gunasekera bt Southern +18; Symons bt Comish +12; Mrozinski bt Tuke +25; Palmer bt Burrigge +12; Saurin bt Peterson +24;

Woodmansee bt Wiggins +12; Gregory bt Sykes +19; Cordingley bt Ransom +26TP; Clarke bt Hilditch +19; Dawson bt McCormick +6; Aiton bt Reeve +8; Prichard bt Stevens +3; Heap bt French +2; Lamb bt Guest +21TP.

Round 2
Goacher bt Gunasekera +13; Symons bt Mrozinski +11; Saurin bt Palmer +5;

NATIONAL RANKINGS

Grade	Games	Grade	Games		
1 Fulford RI	165.3	115	51 Palmer LJ	108.2	44
2 Mulliner SN	163.3	57	52 Davis EJ	108.1	10
3 Openshaw DK	157.9	42	53 Stevens MJ	107.2	30
4 Irwin CJ	155.2	50	54 Bell E	107.1	20
5 Aspinall GN	154.1	19	55 Torrington P	106.9	2
6 Maugham DB	153.8	54	56 Gaunt DL	106.3	18
7 Clarke CD	149.0	85	57 Neal BG	105.3	6
8 Avery MN	147.5	38	58 Hilditch JR	104.4	9
9 Heap MEW	146.9	13	59 Mrozinski AJ	103.8	28
10 Saurin MA	146.1	68	60 Maugham FI	102.6	17
11 Murray M	144.7	22	61 Tuke S	102.5	41
12 Prichard WdeB	138.1	19	62 Hyne NG	102.1	12
13 Goacher DJ	138.1	68	63 Ransom RW	101.0	29
14 Cornelius DA Miss	135.7	34	64 Gregory AK	101.0	31
15 French MR	135.6	55	65 Smith PL	100.8	21
16 Williams S	133.8	15	66 Bailey RF	99.6	6
17 Guest JE	132.5	58	67 Evans MJ	97.8	12
18 Landor FJR	132.1	33	68 Dorke PJ	97.5	6
19 Dawson JP	129.0	30	69 Hallam BG	96.5	11
20 Walters JO	128.3	36	70 Williams RaW	96.2	2
21 Cordingley P	128.1	52	71 Smith RJ	96.0	18
22 Hope AB	126.3	21	72 Battison JSH	95.9	15
23 Symons AJ	126.0	40	73 Appleton DR	95.6	2
24 Aldridge WO	125.7	6	74 Sutcliffe AF	94.9	31
25 Burrigge IJ	125.5	75	75 Coultis J	94.8	8
26 McCullough JR	124.3	3	76 Jackson JJ	94.7	30
27 Reeve DC	124.2	48	77 Anderson TW	94.4	8
28 Noble GW	123.9	35	78 Rose J	93.7	24
29 Bond ID	123.9	38	79 Jones KE	93.3	7
30 Lamb WE	123.0	55	80 Harris N	92.2	13
31 Lewis SE	122.8	21	81 McMordie JA	91.9	6
32 Prichard CHL	122.8	2	82 Bogle A	91.0	16
33 Haslam CJ	122.4	39	83 Hector JD	90.8	15
34 Wood TI	122.3	12	84 Audsley E	90.7	8
35 Gunasekera D	122.3	35	85 Peterson DNS	90.7	4
36 Comish S	121.3	55	86 Macdonald IPM	89.9	20
37 Ormerod WP	119.9	14	87 Camroux AV	89.6	5
38 Read TO	119.7	2	88 Death PJ	89.6	11
39 Harrison TD	119.5	16	89 Williams C	88.9	18
40 Foulser DR	119.1	26	90 McCoig FC Miss	88.7	27
41 Collighan RJ	117.9	30	91 Brand RS	88.6	19
42 Vincent IG	116.9	42	92 Bottomley HJ	88.4	9
43 Aiton KMH	116.8	75	93 Haggerston MJB	88.1	23
44 Prichard RDC	114.0	28	94 Bray AC	88.1	20
45 McCormick DJ	113.5	32	95 Jenkins RS	87.8	13
46 Wiggins DCD	113.4	41	96 Chapman LJ	86.6	36
47 Solomon EW	112.8	2	97 Wiggins WRD	85.9	2
48 Wurml J	112.7	5	98 Bennet A	85.5	12
49 Greenwood JD	112.0	35	99 Liddiard GS	85.0	24
50 Sykes BC	108.3	12	100 Smorffit HW	85.0	20

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Tournament Reports

Southwick: 12-14 June

Welcome tournament for High-Bisquers

Report by Miriam Reader

I entered the 3-day High Bisquer's Tournament at Southwick with some trepidation, as it was my very first tournament away from home. Although I arrived 'shaking in my shoes', the nerves soon vanished as I was made very welcome.

The tournament was run similar to a Swiss, two games per day and in order to give encouragement to beginners only the points gained in each match were counted and at the end of the three days the person with the most points was declared the overall winner.

Southwick also provided a very useful warm-up for all competitors by arranging a One-Ball competition. One could enter as often as one wished and it was very good practice for the competition proper.

Each morning we all assembled in the pavilion for a talk on the etiquette of the game and our questions were answered by the referee, Mrs Pat Asa-Thomas and Miss Pat Shine, the Manager. This session was very informative and on a lighter note I learned that it is the usual custom to offer one's opponent a drink to lessen

the blow of losing! I did rather well out of this, as I didn't win a match! In one of the games, when all my bisques had gone and I had just missed a double left by my formidable opponent, I was told that the penalty for missing was Death - but I am still here to tell the tale.

The cold, miserable weather was more than compensated for by the warmth of friendship between all the competitors and the hospitality of the Southwick Club. I, for one, shall certainly return next year, and would certainly recommend this very well

run tournament to all high bisquers. All thanks to Pat Shine and Pat Asa-Thomas for the benefit of their help and advice.

RESULTS

High-Bisquers Tournament
Winner: Bill Arliss (Southwick)
Runner-up: Pat Wain (Southwick)

One-Ball Competition
Winner: Anne Foster (Cheltenham)
Runner-up: Jean Nash (Crawley)

Edgbaston: 13-15 July

Heat, Hats and Hara-Kiri

Report by Peter Dorke

New records were set at this year's Edgbaston Handicap: Roy Weaver, the Wolverhampton artist, played 12 hours of continuous croquet on Saturday while last year's winner, Henry 'Hurricane' Fellows, waited 6 hours between games. Edgbastians are accustomed to Henry's easy-paced style of play, but a hiatus of this length is unusual even for the Hurricane. Friends averred that had he known that he would have to wait for so long he would have nipped back to the factory to turn out a few more brass widgets. Having, on Saturday morning, suffered the croquet player's nightmare of being trapped behind a Henry Fellows break, I can assure the Hurricane's host of fans and well-wishers that he has in no wise succumbed to the recklessness sometimes observed at Edgbaston but has, if anything, achieved a new stillness.

Would that Ian 'Thundergob' McClelland, this year's winner with 6 straight successes, could learn from Henry's measured approach. This man's talent cannot be denied even by the cagey handicappers of Edgbaston, but as his handicap falls, his tactics become increasingly hairy. As is so often the case in croquet, McClelland's ill-advised shot converts instantly into a fine roquet or a well-run hoop. Fortune favouring the foolhardy once again. Regular readers will divine from this easy flow of bile that their beloved reporter's scalp - such as it is - now hangs on the McClelland belt. This match - like a few more during this week-end - went very close to time and was won by a hair's breadth.

From the foregoing you will have gathered that this was not the most swift-moving of tournaments. Fast lawns which lent a whole new meaning to the word 'indifferent' were largely to blame but Manager Ray Jones must carry one handle of the can for his decision to increase the entry this year. Edgbaston's tournaments are justly popular but it is better to disappoint would-be

entrants than to have to throw oneself upon the managerial sword on Sunday morning so that visitors might get their full quota of games.

Indeed, it was worse than this, for Alan 'Bringer of Laws' Girling, Referee of Tournament and student of Beaumarchais, was sacrificed upon the same weapon. This, it must be admitted, came as a relief to the long-suffering Girling who, in a short press conference, immediately announced his retirement from croquet. Fear not, gentle reader: we have heard this tale before and are content to put it down to the approach of Alan's fortieth birthday. We are confident that as he glides into old age, all passion spent, a new serene Girling will restore to the world that precision croquet for which he was once famous. Letters of encouragement may be sent to the usual address.

In the torrid heat, which was finally and thankfully to break in a brief summer storm, tempers were sometimes sorely tested. Michael 'Mad Mike' Cowan was moved to pronounce an irate discourse on the laws which informed the inhabitants of Harborne and stopped the traffic at Five Ways. His chastened opponent, Don 'Tapper' Gugan will not, in future, blow his nose without calling a referee.

Even your usually level-headed reporter was affected by the weather, taking his only bisque of the tournament with the second ball in his match against a little-known minus player, Ken Something-or-other, who has recently discovered that fatherhood is more fun than croquet. But Ken Whatsisname is only a father: Rosemary Flutter, caterer extraordinaire, is grandmother of the Sensational Smiths, a trio of the most helpful young people you could ever wish to meet at a croquet tournament. Nicola, Teresa and Richard provided a discreet lawnside waiter service throughout the tournament, while appearing not to find the



The 1990 Under-18 Squad. Back row (L to R): Andrew Bennet (coach), David Reekie, David Lilly, Robert Probyn, Jon Simon, and John McCullough (coach). Front: Nicola Currie, Adrian Saurin, Alex Leggate, and Edward Duckworth.

proceedings boring. Which is rather odd, as all croquet is extremely tedious - ask A.J. Girling if you don't believe me.

As usual, a high proportion of the entry was called Jones. New to the ranks of Jonesian croqueteers is Cliff, who has been playing croquet for exactly one year. His handicap is 8 at the time of writing but, like Christopher Gordon Bennett, who allowed me to watch him play 2 perfect breaks on Friday evening, he has a bright light hidden under his bushel. Not to mention a sparse thatch underneath that impressive hat.

Cliff was for some time firm favourite to win the 'Best Hat of the Tournament' prize. When, however, he removed the tiffet to reveal that it covered a bald head and was, therefore *useful*, he was disqualified.

So profuse and varied was the headgear that this might have been called, not a Handicap tournament but a Handy Cap tournament. (Groans and cries of 'Get off!')

As is customary at Edgbaston, the repartee was some of the funniest - and occasionally raunchiest - ever heard at a croquet tournament and, of course, the bon mot of the event was Alan Girling's. Weary of missed roquets, clanged hoops and above all, of the utter formlessness of his own game, the Great Man watched David Prescott administer the coup de grace with the thoughtless exuberance of youth and pronounced his final damning verdict on the weekend's proceedings: 'On the whole, I'd rather read Beaumarchais'.

Or as old Pierre Angustin himself put it: 'Je me presse de vive de tout, de peur d'etre obligé d'en pleurer'. Adieu Edgbastille.

Eastern Championship

Colchester: 2nd-9th July

THE NATWEST EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS Real Championship conditions at Colchester

Report by Chris Clarke

Despite clashing with the Solomon Trophy, this event still attracted a strong entry eager to play on fast lawns with tight, firm hoops.

The first round saw French beat McCormick in two tight games, Haslam beat an out-of-touch Aiton, and Hilditch knock out defending champion, Duncan Reeve. The match of the round, however, was Goacher vs. Burridge. This was a good quality match which went to three and produced a superb comeback by Ian to despatch the no 4. seed.

The quarters saw Maugham lose a game to Collighan who then failed to exert enough pressure in the third. Clarke looked impressive in his straight games win over Guest, and French played well under pressure to beat Hilditch in two close games. The Burridge/Haslam game showed that Ian had both the temperament and stroke play that Haslam seems to lack in these conditions.

The Maugham/Clarke semi was a high class match. In the first, Clarke was rigalled when for 1-back, but Maugham joined up for the lift leave. Chris hit and established a break before failing at 4-back. David gave no more chances. In the second, David failed 4-back whilst finishing, allowing Chris to take his 4-back ball to peg and obtain the rigall. One 25-yard shot later, Chris completed an excellent 3-ball break from hoop 1 in difficult conditions to take the second. The third was also close, but Chris's experience kept David under pressure and extracted the few errors he needed to win.

The Burridge/French semi was a

very psychological one, as Martin had never beaten Ian. Ian won the first, but Martin played well to take the second. He continued to play well in the third, but again Ian soaked up the pressure to obtain a rigall with the other balls for 4-back. Martin, in an attempt to corner, failed to move his ball which was hampered by the hoop. Ian, however, failed to finish and Martin was given two more shots before Ian reached his first Championship final.

The Swiss was progressing with the lead changing hands several times. Aiton, Collighan, Reeve, Goacher, Walters, French and Guest, who completed the only triple when conditions were at their most difficult, were all up there, but it was Maugham who took Pat's Plate. Quote of the tournament came from Dan McCormick whose reply to Russell Collighan's comment that Bob Jackson had done 26 sextuple peels was 'its only because he lays up for them all the time!!!'

The final was a restrained best-of-three, with Chris in dominating form and Ian unable to capitalise on his few opportunities. Conditions such as these allow real croquet to be played. With the majors being played at Hurlingham, croquet is becoming stale and the switch of venue to Bowdon for the President's Cup this year will come as a refreshing change.

Thanks to Richard for managing, the hoop-setters, the sponsors, and most of all to the Celias for their immaculate cuisine (especially the trifle).



Ian Burridge, who reached his first Championship final.

RESULTS

Round 1

D.B. Maugham bt J.O. Walters +10, +17; R. Collighan bt S. Comish +10, +12; C.D. Clarke bt D.R. Foulser +22, +15; J.E. Guest bt L. Palmer +19, +7; M. French bt D. McCormick +6, +3; J.R. Hilditch bt D.C. Reeve -3, +5, +2; I. Burridge bt D. Goacher -13, +17, +3; C.J. Haslam bt K.M.H. Aiton +16, +24.

Round 2

Maugham bt Collighan -16, +15, +25; Clarke bt Guest +8, +26; French bt Hilditch +6, +10; Burridge bt Haslam +4, +15.

Semi-Finals

Clarke bt Maugham -4, +4, +7; Burridge bt French +10, -18, +4.

Final

Clarke bt Burridge +25, +16.

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Southport: 27th-29th July NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Dusk Thriller is Spectator Killer

Report by Mark Saurin

With the names of Robert Fulford, Chris Clarke and Mark Saurin on the Charles Townsend Cup, the National Junior Championship winner seems to have gone on to greater things in previous years. This year's tournament had several players with potential to achieve similar success in the not so distant future.

As is traditional, the pre-tournament pundits had been at it, predicting Chris Haslam and Dan McCormick as the joint favourites, but with the two younger Saurin's not far behind. It was nice to see new faces especially a young lady with, in my opinion, enormous potential in the form of Nicola Currie.

So in fine sunshine, we got under way, with Haslam showing his intentions with a couple of triples in the early rounds and with the rest playing solidly rather than spectacularly. Day one finished in no time at all with the 'stars' still in both halves. Saturday was going to be a long day with the introduction of best-of-three at the semi-final stages of both draw and process. Therefore 'Dan the man' prepared in the best possible way by visiting, with your shy reporter, an establishment in Southport which could only be described as a beehive of beautiful women. Shocking place - how could Dan take me there, never again!

Anyway back to croquet, the semi-finals saw Adrian Saurin and Dan McCormick through to the final of the draw, with Dan awaiting the winner of Haslam/Robert Probyn match in the process final. Chris 1-0 up, and peg and box, was relishing a return conflict with Dan but Robert had other ideas. He slowly clawed his way back as Haslam missed shot upon shot until when peg and peg, Chris did the crowd pleasing thing and hit.

Thus to the two finals on Sunday, Adrian Saurin played solidly to upset the bookies by beating Dan 2-0 whilst Dan saw off Chris in the other final due to fewer mistakes. As he pegged out in the second, Dan shouted to Adrian that 'he was next to lose!' - interesting.



Adrian Saurin, 1990 Junior Champion.

Thus the crowd gathered as the final began late afternoon between 'The Man' and the 'Micro Nipper'. Early play was nervy but Dan looked good as he got round first, soon though to be followed by Adrian. Dan, undisturbed, hit the lift but broke down at hoop five. Almost immediately the game looked over as peels went through including a beautiful controlled half-jump at rover but sadly the peg-out was missed and in a moment of anger, a frenzy of disappointment, the striker's ball thudded against the peg.

Dan, relieved to get another chance, seized his opportunity. Playing a sensible and safe three-ball game, he left Adrian one shot which was missed, and after a terrific high pressure break, pegged out to take the first +1. A slight pause as Dan got a glass of coke (a drop in the ocean as roughly 60 litres were drunk over the weekend) and Adrian sat alone, distraught and dejected, mentally in pieces.

Game two began (Dan's seventh game of the day) and he had the edge but missed several good chances to get going. Eventually he did but amazingly Adrian responded to take the second +12. It was now about 6.30pm, maybe later, as the third started with crowd enthralled. Dan's concentration, understandably, seemed to be faltering as did Andrew Saurin's, addicted to the game on the adjoining court rather than his own break. Dan stuck at first hoop to give Adrian first break but a missed roquet at 2-back gave Dan a ball to 4-back.

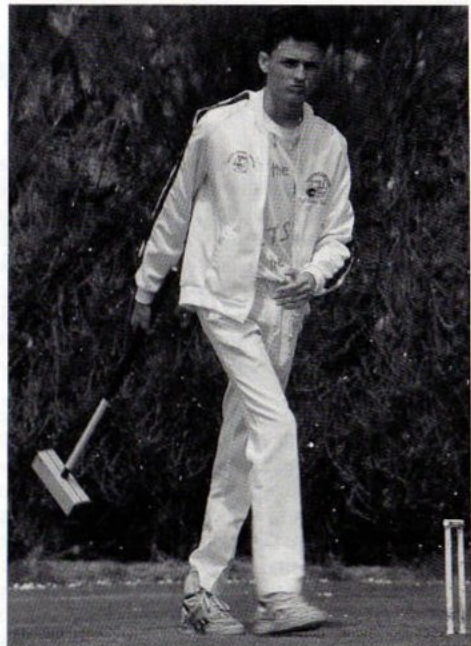
The lift was missed as Dan got to 4-back and peg but an excited crowd erupted as Adrian hit the lift and got going with his hoop one ball. However, disaster struck at two-back again as the jaws gobbled up Adrian's ball. Dan rather surprisingly refused the 5 yard roquet for a possible finish, instead taking the 1 yarder with his peg ball and having a leave. To almost a standing ovation Adrian hit in. Dan moaned and darkness began to close in.

'He's playing better than Fulford' was all Dan could say as Adrian got going but he misapproached penult and Dan rose to the occasion by hitting the lift (fist!!) with his backward ball. It was all over, but no there's more.... failed position at 4-back gave Adrian another shot - he hit! Desperate Dan was speechless as Adrian went from penult to peg, pegging out Dan's ball. So pause for a few moments, 4-back versus 2-back and peg, visibility very difficult, atmosphere electric, tension unbearable.

Ready - shooting at Adrian's two ball's near 4-back, Dan narrowly missed. Adrian got going with a break, the crowd thought it was over, they were almost on the pitch, +4 to Adrian. No such chance, Adrian missed a six yarder at 4-back and Dan hit to gain position at 4-back. Adrian called for a torch as he joined up. Dan ran 4-back and missed narrowly. Adrian then played a faultless break to peg to win, barely visible as he pegged out to become National Junior Champion at the age of 13.

Having been in a similar match myself, I know the fact that there had to be a winner and a loser in such a terrific match is a shame but both players should be equally congratulated for their performances. After the presentation of trophy, Swiss to Jon Simon and handicap cards we all went out to celebrate Dan 'The Marathon Man's' birthday. Thanks to Southport for an excellent tournament, with superb junior 'junk' food and the tremendous management in every department of Andrew Bennet. Well done Adrian, hard luck Dan, better things await you both I guarantee!

Junior Championship



Dan McCormick, runner-up.

RESULTS

DRAW

1st Round

Leggate bt Holgate +5; Reekie bt Duckworth +20; Probyn bt Currie +20; Simon bt Nutter +20; Haslam bt Coleman +25TP; Andrew Saurin bt Lilly +20.

2nd Round

Adrian Saurin bt Leggate +2; Probyn bt Reekie +10; Haslam bt Simon +25TP; McCormick bt Andrew Saurin +13.

Semi-Finals

Adrian Saurin bt Probyn +16, +8; McCormick bt Haslam +16, +17.

Final

Adrian Saurin bt McCormick +17, +3.

PROCESS

1st Round

Adrian Saurin bt Jon Simon +7; Andrew Saurin bt David Reekie +11; Chris Haslam bt Alex Leggate +23; Andy Holgate bt James Coleman +15; Dan McCormick bt Nicola Currie +26; Edward Duckworth bt David Lilly +7.

2nd Round

Andrew Saurin bt Adrian Saurin +16; Haslam bt Robert Probyn +1; McCormick bt Holgate +25; Duckworth bt Paul Nutter +22.

Semi-Finals

Haslam bt Andrew Saurin +24, +15; McCormick bt Duckworth +7, +18.

Final

McCormick bt Haslam +17, +14.

PLAY-OFF

Adrian Saurin bt Dan McCormick -1, +12, +3.

Handicap Swiss

N. Currie (7) bt J. Coleman (15) +12; D. Lilly (5½) bt A. Holgate (5) +18; P. Nutter (20) bt J. Coleman (15) +7; D. Reekie (6) bt N. Currie (7) +7; D. Lilly (5½) bt A. Leggate (2) +16; J. Simon (7) bt A. Holgate (5) +4; N. Currie (7) bt A. Leggate (2) +13; D. Lilly (5½) bt D. Reekie (6) +7; Andrew Saurin (0) bt R. Probyn (3) +20TP; N. Currie (7) bt P. Nutter (20) +10; D. Reekie (6) bt A. Leggate (2) +23; D. Lilly (5½) bt J. Coleman (15) +10; J. Simon (7) bt R. Probyn (3) +25; A. Holgate (5) bt E. Duckworth (3½); A. Leggate (2) bt R. Probyn (3) +4; J. Simon (5) bt Andrew Saurin (0) +26; D. Reekie (6) bt A. Holgate (5) +7; E. Duckworth (3½) bt J. Coleman (15) +4; Andrew Saurin (0) bt P. Nutter (20) +8; J. Simon (4) bt C. Haslam (-½) +11; D. Reekie (5) bt Andrew Saurin (0) +15.

Winner: J. Simon.

Handicap alterations

Chris Haslam	-½ to -1
Dan McCormick	-1 to -1½
Robert Probyn	5 to 3
David Reekie	6 to 5
Adrian Saurin	0 to -½
Andrew Saurin	0 to -½
Jon Simon	7 to 5 to 4.

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Tournament Reports

Woking: 23-24 June Stars at Woking

Report by Richard Hilditch

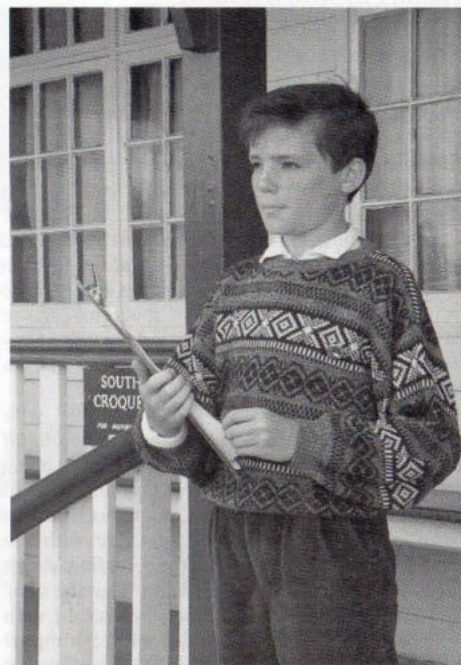
As a first time visitor (marked with a star on the board, although not on my person) I copped the report. We were using the two permanent lawns and two borrowed tennis courts, all of which seemed to have over-benefitted from watering. The 21 players were split into two Swisses on handicap order. This allowed two trophies to be presented, but as a format perhaps shields the weaker A players from the good B players and prevents the taking of scalps.

The A event proved to be a formality, as David Wiggins won 7 out of 7 with his nearest rivals 3 behind; they were probably put off by the huge size of the cup. David was pleased to get his first ever triple (in fact two in a row) as was the improving Strat Liddiard from Parkstone. Jim (sic) Rose's claim to fame was his first ever TPO, this from an ex-President's Cup player, surely not a reflection on his tactics. Meanwhile the B event provided 3 players on 5 out of 6 with a one ball play off being won by Jeremy Ames from Edward Dymock and Roger Hayes.

Saturday night provided an excellent barbeque while we watched the traditional bottom of the Swiss game in the A block between Colin Southern and our manager (Bob Smith) which had been held

back for the viewers' benefit. Colin was delighted to get the Riggall when for 4th against Bob on penult and he progressed well with the two balls until after making 4 back (Bob was still on penult and basket). Colin joined wide and later shot into contact near corner 2, Bob missed to about 6 inches away. Colin decided not to touch Bob's ball and shaped up to play an enormous roll down towards corner 4 (his turn starting with his two balls in contact). However, in order to avoid touching Bob's ball on the follow through, he lifted his mallet too early and played a very vigorous air shot (as it appeared to me). Great amusement from the gallery, on stepped Bob and finished.

After the players had returned the balls to the basket I discussed the shot with Colin and he informed me that he had in fact flicked the ball with the bottom of his mallet and the balls had rolled back together. Therefore Colin had not played a fault due to not moving the croqueted ball, so would he have been entitled to a continuation shot, or would a fault have been declared as Bob's ball might have been adjudged to be making the shot hampered (as a mis-hit occurred)? Indeed what sort of a pathetic roll would he have executed on his continuation shot anyway? He will never know.



Adrian Saurin (youngest ever Manager at 13?) has managed two of Southport's tournaments this year.

Bristol: 30 June-1 July Drawn on Arrival at Bristol

Report by Hamish Hall

Showers and heavy rain on the Saturday, followed by boisterous winds on the Sunday, added to the difficulties of barren patches around some of the hoops - altogether militating against any spectacular croquet.

David Goacher, minus a beard, displayed his usual theatrical gestures at failing his triple and quadruple peels, even before the first part was achieved. Joe Jackson, plus a beard, showed that he had not lost any feel for our lawns, even though he has deserted us for Nailsea this year. Neither he, nor that club, (nor even the National Junior Training Coach) helped Alex Leggate in mastering the tactics of advanced play. He had a weekend of disasters, repeatedly failing to claim lifts, or to remember that he had to concede them at the appropriate stages of the game.

One could rely on Alvar Bray to introduce a unique method in managing the Tournament. Instead of arranging a draw, players were paired off as they arrived. As a result, Gill Bogle could have justly felt to be aggrieved at playing in the 'B' block, where she demonstrated those skills that won her the Steel Bowl, and had comfortable wins against all except Martin Ansell. Each finished with four wins, but on the principle of 'who beat who', Martin took the brown envelope.

The latest innovation at Bristol is to provide a handsome trophy to be

held by the winner at this Tournament, and we are proud to announce that the John McCullough Challenge plate went to Roger Jenkins. Quite how he achieved this win was less satisfactory. By about 4.30, Alan Bogle, Francis Landor, David Goacher, as well as Roger, all had 4 wins and a semi final and final seemed the obvious course, in the 5 or so hours remaining before dusk. But no, the prospect of missing the World Cup football seemed to weigh more heavily and not even 1 ball games were considered. In the spirit of Rome, it was to be decided with a shoot out at the peg. 5 shots for each finalist. Sudden death thereafter.

It was exciting stuff. Alan was at a distinct advantage. He had broken his mallet in his last game, but he was there with a chance at round 5. More flagellation as David saw his chances slipping away. Francis kept his cool, but couldn't nudge ahead. In truth, at the end of round 4, we had witnessed 16 attempts and not one hit! In the 5th round, Roger alone managed to score the only point.

Rumour has it that some players decided against entry, because it was felt that our lawns might have jeopardized their position in the rankings. If this was so, we are sorry. But come the autumn, we have plans to extend all lawns to full size and to level the top two lawns. We hope that this action will restore the lawns after last year's drought and subsequent distortions in the playing surface.

Hunstanton: 15-17 June Full marks, Hunstanton!

Report by Dennis Moorcraft

Most Croquet Clubs have their own special place in our affections. One of Hunstanton's claims to fame is the invention of the over 50's weekend, the fourth of which was held on 15-16 June.

The club sensibly limit the number of entries to 24, so that a 6 round Swiss can be played in comfort, with one game in the morning and one in the afternoon, and no late nights. A distinguished collection of golden oldies assembled from all parts with Cromer and Colchester strongly represented and no less than nine players from Cheltenham.

The sun shone, the food (provided by club members) was terrific, the lawns in splendid condition, the croquet relaxed; Sarah Hampson managed, played, and occasionally disappeared to feed her cats, with no effort at all. Bill Lamb, as ROT, decided that we needed practice on President's Cup Hoops, so tightened them all after the first day - with interesting results, as the fast lawns made accurate approaching difficult.

The most notable happening was that Andrew Potter managed to lose his car keys. After the shrubberies had been combed, unsuccessfully, by about 30 players and members, technical assistance was called in. Apart from costing a lot of money this only served to prove, when the car had been forcibly entered, that the key had not been locked in the boot.

The key was found next day in the ladies changing room. We are still waiting for an explanation from Andrew of how it got there.

As for the Croquet, everyone seemed to enjoy their games. What a change from some tournaments! No one was very interested in who won, but three of the Cheltenham gang - Bill Madams, Paddy Paddon and Dennis Moorcraft - claimed that they had won 5 out of their 6 games. Rather than face a three way play off they decided to let Paddy take the salver on points. This was cunning as the other two got nice silver spoons to keep.

This was the pleasantest tournament I have played in for a long time. Keep it up Hunstanton.

RESULTS

(Handicap Swiss)

5 wins: M.T. Paddon (1) (winner); E.W. Madams (5); D.H. Moorcraft (1½).

4 wins: H.H. Grimwood (16); W.E. Lamb (1½); A. Potter (7½); Miss S. Hampson; D.C. Powell (12).

3 wins: J.E. Reeve (3½); J.F. Hughes (12); B.S. Mapperley (14); J.W. Wood (2); Mrs B.E. Carter (13); J. Stott (14); Mrs B.V. Gosden (7½); Mrs O.E. Camroux (12); R.A. Gosden (5); Mrs P.M. Hetherington.

2 wins: A.V. Camroux (1).

1 win: Mrs I. Moorcraft (9); W.J. Sturdy (6½); Mrs M. Evans (11); Mrs J.V. Paddon (7); L. Robinson (16).

Parkstone: 18-23 June Almost a clean sweep for Parkstone

Report by Derek Trotman

June at Parkstone was warm, wet and windy but appeared to suit local club players who won all but one of the events.

Prior to the start of the tournament the lawns looked in excellent condition, their greenness being evidence of the success of the newly installed watering system. Nature however provided an abundance of water during the week and we were treated to the novel sight of the ground staff rolling water off lawns 3 and 4. Surface conditions varying from firm to flooded severely tested the players and at least a third of the games went to time. Les Butler (Manager) operating in a laid back manner succeeded in keeping the programme fairly well on schedule, without too many late matches.

David Harrison-Wood was the player of the week, winning the Open Handicap (Cripps Cup) and the 'A' Class event (Dorset Salver). The Handicap final against Derrick Charsley-Thomas was a slightly disappointing match as neither player reproduced the standard witnessed in previous games. David was always in command but delayed his final success by failing on two peg out attempts before hitting in across the lawn and finishing the match +10.

In the 'A' Class David beat Les Chapman in the semi-final with his first TP in competitive croquet and then overcame Paul Macdonald in the final +19.

The final day was to prove unsuccessful for the Macdonald family as Pat lost the 'B' Class final (Weldon Trophy) to John Packer when her long range hitting in for once let her down and then in the afternoon the family partnership lost in the 'Y' Handicap Doubles to Beryl Saunders and Frank Shergold.

The final of the 'C' Class handicap (Cope Cup) looked at one time to be between the Southport ladies Joyce Taylor and Pauline Lewis but John Simmonds playing in his first tournament and surviving a bisque reduction from 12 to 10 on the first day, edged Joyce out of the final on a better points score. The final went to time with John winning +1 after Pauline had stuck in Rover.

The Summer Doubles Handicap produced some interesting and close matches with the tactical skill of Derrick Charsley-Thomas supported by Eunice Witton proving to be successful. The most exacting game being the semi-final against Les Butler and Derek Trotman which was won +1T after Derrick had taken the last bisque to peg out an opponent and set up Eunice to make the crucial hoop as time was called. In the final Pat Asa-Thomas and Alice Dawson were unable to overcome the handicap of having to give away bisques.

The only non-Parkstone player to win was Les Chapman who came out on top of the Y handicap singles which had been played as a Swiss event.

RESULTS

Dorset Salver

(Open Singles)

Block A

3 wins: L. Chapman.

2 wins: I.P.M. Macdonald.

1 win: F.L. Shergold.

0 wins: L.S. Butler.

Block B

2 wins: P. Howell, D. Charsley-Thomas, D. Harrison-Wood.

Semi-finals

I.P.M. Macdonald bt P. Howell +7; D. Harrison-Wood bt L. Chapman +6TP.

Final

Harrison-Wood bt Macdonald +19.

Weldon Trophy

(Level Singles: 4-8 bisques)

Tournament Reports

Block A

4 wins: J.A. Packer.

2 wins: Mrs E. Asa-Thomas, Mrs B.R. Saunders, Col E.L.L. Vulliamy.

0 wins: Miss A.E. Dawson.

Block B

4 wins: Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald.

2 wins: D.W. Trotman, A. Potter, C.F. Moon.

0 wins: J.O. Mays.

Final

Packer bt Mrs Macdonald +10.

Cope Cup

(H/cap Play: 9 bisques & over)

Block A

3 wins: J. Simmonds (winner), Mrs L.J. Taylor (runner-up).

2 wins: Mrs D. Birrell, Mrs M.E. Rumsey.

0 wins: Miss J. Wraith.

Block B

3 wins: Miss P.M.H. Lewis.

2 wins: Mrs C.A. Parker.

1 win: Mrs E.B. Wilton.

0 wins: Mrs A.F. Howell.

Final

Simmonds beat Miss Lewis +1(T).

Cripps Memorial Trophy

(H/cap knock-out: 27 entries)

Semi-finals

D. Harrison-Wood (2½) bt A. Potter (7½) +7; D. Charsley-Thomas (2½) bt F.L. Shergold (2) +13.

Final

Harrison-Wood bt Charsley-Thomas +10.

'Y' Handicap

(Swiss)

Winner: L. Chapman 3 wins.

Summer Handicap Doubles

(13 pairs)

Semi-finals

D. Charsley-Thomas & Mrs E. Wilton (14½) bt L. Butler & D. Trotman (6½) +1(T); Mrs P. Asa-Thomas & Miss A. Dawson (11) bt C. Moon & Mrs J. Taylor (17) +4(T).

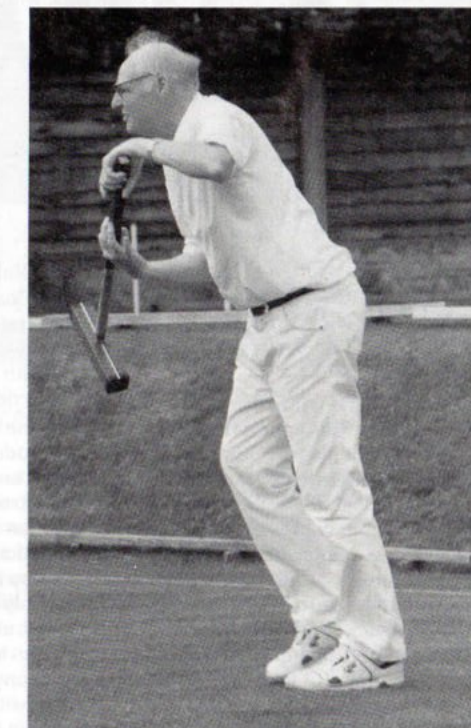
Final

Charsley-Thomas & Mrs Wilton beat Mrs Asa-Thomas & Miss Dawson +11.

'Y' Handicap Doubles

Final

Mrs B. Saunders & F. Shergold (7½) bt Mr & Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald (7) +4.



Colin Wild, undefeated in the Southport B-Levels.

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Home Internationals

Glasgow: 16-17 June HOME INTERNATIONALS England Regain Trophy in Close Finish

Report by David Openshaw

This year the Home Internationals were held outside England for the first time and hosted by Glasgow, the 1990 European City of Culture. The Budleigh Club has provided a first class venue for this event over the last five years, so Glasgow and the Scottish Croquet Association certainly had something to live up to. They succeeded admirably.

The matches were played at 3 venues, with the main headquarters being based at Glasgow Green, the home of the Glasgow Croquet Club. All matches were held on bowling greens, and these provided a good if somewhat slow surface which was compensated for by setting the hoops very firmly in the ground.

England were favourites to take the title even without Fulford and Avery who were not available. Ireland looked the most likely team to challenge for the trophy.

In the first round England beat Scotland 4-1 and Ireland beat Wales 3-2.

In the second round, England beat Wales 4-1 and Ireland beat Scotland 5-0, thus setting up the grand final on the Sunday of England v Ireland.

On the Saturday evening all the players were invited to the Home Internationals Dinner sponsored by the University of Strathclyde where many of us were also staying.

After a marvellous dinner we watched the highlights of England O Holland O in the World Cup. For some reason BBC Scotland had preferred to show Scotland v Sweden live!

On Sunday Ireland struck first through Mark Saurin who beat David Openshaw but this was quickly followed by an English victory by Chris Clarke over Simon Williams.

David Maugham, playing number four for England, won in 3 games against Ian Vincent to give England the lead. By a piece of good management the last two games to finish were both at Glasgow Green and both games were 1-1. Irwin had won the first against Mulliner and Andrew Saurin (Ireland) had made a good recovery against Martin French

University of Strathclyde for hosting the Home Internationals. I for one look forward to playing in Glasgow again.

RESULTS

Round 1

ENGLAND V. SCOTLAND
S.N. Mulliner bt K.M.H. Aiton +26TP, -23, +7.



Rod Williams, Chairman of the Scottish Croquet Association, presents England Captain David Openshaw with the Trophy.

(England) after losing the first game. Irwin was always ahead in the third and he duly won to make the score 2-2.

French always seemed to have the upper hand in his third game and did not allow Andrew Saurin many chances. England won the match 3-2 to regain the trophy. Scotland made home advantage count against Wales, winning 4-1.

An excellent week-end's croquet, our thanks to the Glasgow District Council, the Glasgow Sports Promotion Council, and the

D.K. Openshaw bt A. Hope +20, +5.
C.D. Clarke lost to M. Murray +26, -5, -17.
D.B. Maugham bt D.C. Reeve +26TP, +17.
M.R. French beat I.D. Bond +3, -17, +3.

Match Result
England 4; Scotland 1.

IRELAND V. WALES
C.J. Irwin lost to W. de B. Prichard +10, -6, -15.
M.A. Saurin bt D. Gunasekera +12, -8TP, +26TP.

S. Williams bt R.J. Hilditch +10, +5.
I.G. Vincent lost to R.D.C. Prichard -25, -16.
Andrew Saurin bt I. Burridge +4, -6, +7.

Match Result
Ireland 3; Wales 2.

Round 2

ENGLAND V. WALES
S.N. Mulliner bt W. de B. Prichard -6, +16TP, +16.

D.K. Openshaw bt D. Gunasekera +23, +15.
C.D. Clarke bt J.R. Hilditch +1, +26TP.
D.B. Maugham bt R.D.C. Prichard +17, +26TP.

M.R. French lost to I. Burridge -14, -11.

Match Result
England 4; Wales 1.

IRELAND V. SCOTLAND

C.J. Irwin bt K.M.H. Aiton +9TPO, +26TP.
M.A. Saurin bt A. Hope +17TP, +7.

S. Williams bt M. Murray -16, +10, +16.
I.G. Vincent bt D.C. Reeve +12, +21TP.
Andrew Saurin bt I.D. Bond -25, +26, +5.

Match Result
Ireland 5; Scotland 0.

Round 3

ENGLAND V. IRELAND
S.N. Mulliner lost to C.J. Irwin -17, +25, -17.
D.K. Openshaw lost to M.A. Saurin -15, -12TPO.

C.D. Clarke bt S. Williams +2, +11.
D.B. Maugham bt I.G. Vincent +17TP, -17TP, +26TP.

M.R. French bt Andrew Saurin +21, -11, +12.

Match Result
England 3; Ireland 2.

SCOTLAND V. WALES

K.M.H. Aiton lost to W. de B. Prichard +6TP, opp scr.

A. Hope bt D. Gunasekera +3, -23, +4.
M. Murray bt J.R. Hilditch +26TP, +2.
D.C. Reeve bt R.D.C. Prichard +15, +23.
I.D. Bond bt I. Burridge +4, -1, +16.

Match Result
Scotland 4; Wales 1.

MATCH SUMMARY

England	3 wins
Ireland	2 wins
Scotland	1 win
Wales	0 wins

World Championship Qualifiers at Surbiton

Two qualifying competitions were held at Surbiton for the Continental Airlines World Croquet Championship.

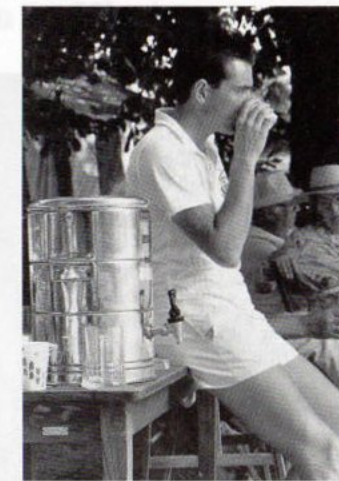
The first was for players from overseas, and was played on 12th and 13th July. There were four competitors - Norman Eatough from Switzerland, Jean Baptiste Grochain and Rodolphe Dourthe from France, and David Peterson who claimed Spanish domicile. A last minute hitch prevented the attendance of Tarik al Sa'eed from Dubai, but we hope that he will be able to be present on a later occasion.

One competitor from this event was to qualify for the World Championship, and early predictions were that David Peterson would walk it. However, it was not to be. The competition was played as a block of four and David, having scraped a close win over Rodolphe Dourthe, an 18-year old horticultural student from La Rochelle, then went on to lose both his other games by an identical score (-7 on time).

Jean-Baptiste beat David but lost to Norman and Rodolphe, thus leaving Rodolphe and Norman with two wins each. This tie for first place was resolved by a single game play-off, which Rodolphe won by +3 on time. When time was called, Rodolphe was on penult and rover, with Norman three points behind. Rodolphe distributed the four balls near to the four corners.

Norman hit yellow at 30 yards, and was then left with having to make three hoops and peg out one ball to win. His take-off from 3 feet behind 4-back rolled off to a very acute angle, and his subsequent hoop shot stuck in the jaws, ending his challenge for this year. However, as he remarked afterwards, the qualifying competition was a character-forming experience, which he enjoyed.

The first-ever Swiss Croquet Championship is to be held this September, and will be a sponsored event. With a 'Coupe des Alpes' between France, Switzerland and



A regular supply of iced-water was most welcome at this year's Opens.

Italy planned for next year, 1991 may well see more European players challenging for places in future World Championships. Let's hope so.

The second qualifying competition at Surbiton (for home players) was held from 3rd to 5th August. Two places were up for grabs and six players competed for them. Ian Bond sent us this report of the event.

The first two days were played in conditions which undoubtedly affected everybody's game. Though the lawns were not by any means

impossibly fast or difficult, thanks to assiduous watering in the preceding weeks, the mid-thirties temperatures were both physically and mentally debilitating, and it was not until the final day, when the players basked in the comparative comfort of 25C, that 5 triples in 9 games showed what might have been achieved by this 'Gentlemen's Field' in more normal circumstances.

For all that, there was much good play throughout and all six players were still in contention even as late as the ninth round. Guest's consistent and unperturbable play had by then seen him comfortably through, but he certainly did not dominate and eked out two very narrow wins in the second series which should have gone the other way. Cordingley on the other hand made an uncharacteristically slow start, but recovered well to secure the other qualifying spot (Bond and Noble know their place - which, in the week in question, will be with six others in a small seaside resort on the West coast of Norfolk).

Dawson impressed with some reliable shooting and a triple on the most awkward lawn, but had left himself with a little too much to do after losing all three of his games on the second day. Symons, though making the occasional tactical error which betrayed his shortage of play

at this level, was never out of touch and will surely have benefitted from the experience. All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable three days' play in an atmosphere and to a standard that would not have disgraced a good 'Chairmans' - and so much more economical of time.

RESULTS

Overseas

N. Eatough beat D.N.S. Peterson +7(T) and J-B Grochain +5(T); R. Dourthe bt N. Eatough +15 and J-B Grochain +16; D.N.S. Peterson beat R. Dourthe +2; J-B Grochain beat D.N.S. Peterson +7(T).

Home

1st Series

J.E. Guest bt P. Cordingley +26, G.W. Noble +26, and J. Dawson +17; I.D. Bond bt J.E. Guest +15, J. Dawson +4, and A. Symons +7; P. Cordingley bt I.D. Bond +3, and A. Symons +17; G.W. Noble bt I.D. Bond +24TP, P. Cordingley +16, and A. Symons +23; J. Dawson bt P. Cordingley +2, and G. Noble +26; A. Symons bt J.E. Guest +7, and J. Dawson +10.

2nd Series

Guest bt Bond +2, Cordingley +4, Dawson +10, and Symons +8; Bond bt Noble +26TP, and Dawson +4; Cordingley bt Bond +25TP, Noble +18, and Dawson +10; Noble bt Guest +11TPO, and Symons +15; Dawson bt Noble +6TP, and Symons +5; Symons bt Bond +11, and Cordingley +25TP.

Final Scores

7 wins: J.E. Guest.
5 wins: P. Cordingley, I.D. Bond, and G.W. Noble.
4 wins: J.E. Dawson and A. Symons.

Golf Croquet Cups

Phyllis Court: 23-24 June Chris Clarke dominates Report by Smokey Eades

'Oops there he goes again' just Chris Clarke running hoops at five, six, seven yards in the Golf Croquet Championships at Phyllis Court and sometimes hardly appearing to aim!

Chris dominated the two days, winning the Singles Final in two straight games against an unawed Geoff Roy and, partnered by Kay Yeoman, losing by the barest margin (10-9) to Smokey Eades and Johnny White in the final of the Doubles.

Earlier in the semi-final of the Singles Geoff Roy had trounced James Wankling whilst Chris Clarke had had an easy win over Tony Mrozinski. Ian Maugham (last year's Cup winner) who should have played Roy was called away to Cheltenham to play an Inter-Club match against Bowdon.

In the semi-finals of the Doubles Clarke/Yeoman beat the thus far unvanquished partnership of Mrozinski/Hopwood 7-3. (Mike Hopwood originally Bowdon now plays at High Wycombe) whilst Eades/White had the same decisive win over the Wanklings. Up from Worthing came Fred Woodhead and Miss Payton, two dedicated Golf Croquet players, Ted Matthews came over from Harrow whilst Joyce Barnes, Peter Carter and Norman Pope played on their home ground.



Ian Maugham (foreground) and other competitors in play for the Golf Croquet Cups at Phyllis Court.

It was a good tournament, marred only by the weather which turned wet on Saturday and unutterably cold on Sunday with a wind blowing dire across the Regatta stretch of the Thames, cooling the enthusiasm of spectators and players alike.

RESULTS

Singles

(5 games)

5 wins: C.D. Clarke.
4 wins: J.L. Wankling, A.J. Mrozinski, F.I. Maugham.

3 wins: G. Roy.
2 wins: F.W. Woodhead, D. Croker, M. Hopwood, Mrs Wankling.
1 win: R.S. Eades, E.C. Matthews.
0 wins: Mrs Yeoman.

Doubles

(3 games)

3 wins: M. Hopwood & A.J. Mrozinski.
2 wins: Mr & Mrs Wankling, C.D. Clarke & Mrs Yeoman, R.S. Eades & J. White.
1 win: N. Pope & Mrs Barnes, F.W. Woodhead & Miss Payton, D. Croker & G. Roy.
0 wins: E.C. Matthews & P. Carter.

Coaching Comments

By Bill Lamb

'Introducing Croquet' is a new video tape produced in New Zealand by Vital Video, which covers Golf Croquet and the basic strokes of Association Croquet.

The tape starts with a brief history of the game, shot appropriately in sepia tones but also including some historical footage in black and white. There is a clear exposition of Golf Croquet using computer graphics followed by a demonstration game at the Manurewa Club. The New Zealand style start, where all the balls are struck simultaneously from B baulk may be unfamiliar to English players. The star of the tape - if one discounts Sam, the 'friendly' Manurewa dachshund - is World Champion Joe Hogan, aided by

Dennis Bulloch who is the New Zealand Coaching Administrator. Joe demonstrates the various grips and offers useful advice on stance and swing with a discussion of how his style has developed.

After the Golf Croquet there is then an introduction to Association Croquet and Joe demonstrates the basic strokes. There is some reiteration of the swing, and a clear explanation and demonstration of drive, stop shot and roll strokes. Joe is not only a marvellously straight hitter but also an excellent technician in his croquet strokes, and his demonstration of split croquet strokes with the mallet following through in the line of swing is a joy to watch.

There is some catchy, but not obtrusive, background music and the whole tape has been very professionally produced, as might be expected because Warren Smyth, the director, has been involved with New Zealand TV and has had access to their editing facilities. The approach is light-hearted at times to relieve the serious instruction.

I can thoroughly recommend this tape to all beginners and high-bisquers; every club should have a copy.

The tape, which runs for approximately 50 minutes, will be marketed in this country by the Croquet Association and is available to CA members from the CA Office at a price of £20 + £3 VAT.

NOMINATIONS FOR 1990 AWARDS

The TOWNSEND AWARD is a trophy kindly donated to the CA by Townsend Croquet Ltd. It is awarded each year to the club, less than 3 years old, that has made the greatest advancement in its development during the season. All new clubs formed in or since 1988 are thus eligible for this award.

The APPS-HELEY AWARD, made each year to the club that has done most for Croquet and made the most progress during the year, is restricted to clubs more than 3 years old. All clubs formed prior to 1988 are therefore eligible.

Nominations are invited for both awards. As a member of a club itself is often the only person who can report on what the club and its members have achieved, please do not feel inhibited about putting your

own club forward for the relevant award.

Please write for nomination forms to Syd Jones, 13 Kew Gardens, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, NE26 3LY.

Nominations are also required for the most improved players (men and women) and these should be sent to Tony Antenen at the CA Office by 1st February 1991 to enable the Handicap Committee to recommend the award of the **Apps Trophy** and the **Steele Bowl** for the most improved man and lady respectively.

Persons nominated must be CA members and information about their improvements (including full details of handicap reductions) should relate only to that part of the season during which they were CA members (in respect of players who joined the CA mid-way through the season).

Tournament Reports

Wrest Park: 6-8 July Disappointment for some!

Report by John Wheeler

The entry for this tournament, sixteen, was disappointingly low. Was this the influence of the World Cup? There was an advantage, however, in that only two lawns needed to be double banked.

On the first morning we noticed that wasps had built a nest under our pavilion, so Gill Bogle was appointed Health Officer and dealt with the problem. As play proceeded your reporter noticed that the form of his opponent, John Rose, was below that expected from such a strong player. Was this the early effect of impending fatherhood? It may well have been because John's form deserted him for the whole weekend. Phil Cordingley on the other hand was winning in a convincing manner, until he played Eddy Bell, that is (+17 to Bell).

The curious thing about the tournament was the absence of a master scoreboard. Competitors dutifully handed results to the manager who entered them into a portable computer (programmed by Eric Audsley) and once a round had been completed we were told who to play next. Lawn allocation was largely on a 'help yourself' basis. Management was conducted in a relaxed and efficient manner, such that by early evening on the first day most players had left the club.

John Wheeler and Tom Anderson were still locked in deadly combat however. When time was called each player had a clip on Rover and peg, Tom, who had been well ahead at one stage, separated black and blue and pegged out his yellow to go one up. John then hit blue with black and pegged out black, but Tom won the battle for Rover. During the fish and chip supper in the bar Tom was taken to task for failing to recognise winning situations, thus prolonging games and giving opponents chances to recover poor situations. In spite of this they usually lose.

As mentioned earlier, few games were double banked, which must have led Barry Keen to believe that if his opponent was playing red and yellow then any other balls on the lawn must be his own and after a roquet he picked up white by mistake. John Wheeler in the meantime had the idea of laying out

near the second corner wired from white. While making the final adjustment he looked up to see the white approaching him with Barry in close pursuit. End of story white hits in. On another occasion John had to decide which black ball to play while on the adjacent lawn Eddy Bell seemed to be coping quite well with two blues.

In one game Eric Audsley quit the lawn with what at first sight appeared to be an excellent leave. Yellow was jammed behind three back and red jammed behind rover. Has no one ever told him its a much better leave if you do that with the opponents balls? He did have a good quality game with Phil Cordingley though. Eric took the initiative at the start but failed hoop three, Phil hit with red and went to four-back, Eric missed the lift and Phil took yellow to the stick. Eric hit the lift and went to four-back with blue and, after Phil missed the lift, went to the stick with black and pegged out yellow. Phil hit the lift and finished the game.

By the end of round seven, it looked like a two horse race. Phil and John Coutts had been playing well and had notched up six wins each. Eddy had been playing well but had lost to John Coutts. Howard Bottomley had five wins and could win the tournament if he beat Phil and John Wheeler beat John Coutts. John Wheeler did beat John Coutts, thus gaining an award for the most improved player, but Phil beat Howard by 25 and was the outright winner of the tournament. Commiserations to Barry Keen our manager who had his handicap raised to 3. We hope you will back to form by the time of your next tournament game on July 7th 1991.

RESULTS

7 wins: P. Cordingley.
6 wins: J. Coutts and E. Bell.
5 wins: H. Bottomley, E. Audsley, and J. Wheeler.
4 wins: A. Bogle, Dr G. Bogle, P. Smith, and T. Anderson.
3 wins: Mrs J. Anderson, D. Hector, and A. Parry.
2 wins: J. Rose and M. Hutchison.
0 wins: B. Keen.

Southport: 7-8 July Long-Bisquers Enter CA Calendar

Report by Andrew Bennet

This event, previously open only within the Northern Federation, attracted visitors Paul Sharrock from Wrest Park and Joan Welch from Ealing. Local players Dudley and Beryl Simmonds entered their first tournament, as did Doreen Bennet from Bowdon. The jolly Tynesiders were there as usual.

The start saw the lawns badly flooded for the first time this year. I must mention the efforts of Ernest Dalley, Ian Jackman, Brian Lewis, Dudley Simmonds and especially my co-manager, Adrian Saurin, who removed enough water to enable us to complete two rounds on the first day, with Margaret Dalley and Paul Sharrock earning their silver awards.

The second day at least gave us five playable lawns, although the conditions were cold and windy. The players battled on. Adrian gave them their orders and they went. He played to fill in all the 'bye' rounds besides being constantly available to fulfil his duties as Manager and Assistant Referee, and when I had to disappear off to Preston to find the trophy held by a certain absent-minded Professor, I knew I could leave him in total control.

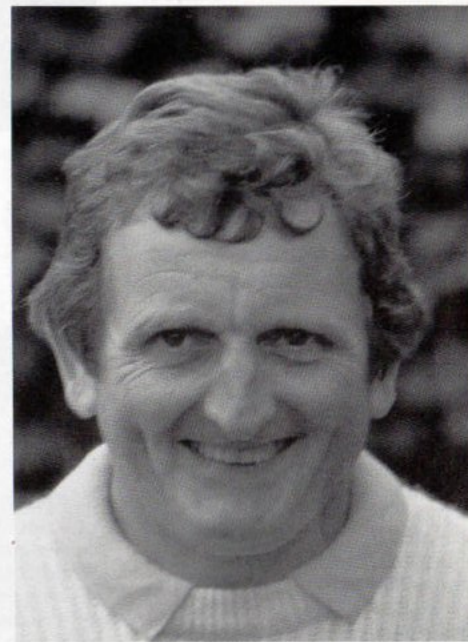
The Professor was present not in spirit but in the wood, as many of the competitors used what are familiarly called 'Prof Pid' mallets.

We had a four-way tie-break to decide the winner. Andy Holgate, a long bisquer at time of entry, was in contention because of a superb performance against Brian Lewis in which he not only earned his silver award but pegged out in spectacular fashion with a croquet stroke from near the first corner, followed by an impressive smack from some distance.

Adrian decided that the tie-break should be trickles to the peg from each corner, as in the Swiss at the Men's Championship. If the peg was hit, the shot should be retaken (think about it), any ball in the way should be marked, and the player whose ball was furthest away was out of that round. Margaret Dalley and Paul Sharrock were disappointed, Betty Shotton came second, and the event was won by Andy Holgate, rewarded for his persistence after a depressing performance at this event last year. He is no longer a long-bisquer.

I should appreciate any other ideas for a long-bisquers' tie-break when the games finish after 6pm on the Sunday when players want to embark upon the long drive home but wish to see the presentation.

Is there any previous record of a 13-year-old Manager?



John Rose.

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Surbiton: 7-8 July Egyptian at Surbiton

Report by Beryl Gosden

A 'Fair 'ole' (Pharaoh) time was had by 24 players in this 2 day week-end tournament held at Surbiton. Even though the clouds were occasionally threatening, the rain did not materialise and waterproofs were thankfully not required.

Paul Hands' 'Egyptian' system is becoming increasingly popular, and Julian Straw managed this format admirably, producing 68 handicap games all told.

Simon Tuke and John Greenwood played 8 games over the 2 days, but the average was 5 games.

Adrian Judge was outstanding for his hard work. He arrived each morning at 7.30am in order to set the hoops, and still managed to come second to Simon Tuke in the tournament.

Veronica Gadsby achieved her Bronze award. The general verdict was that this was a very enjoyable tournament. Good food, thanks to Hazel, and beer contributed to a very relaxing atmosphere.

RESULTS

'Egyptian' tournament
(24 entries: Handicap play)
Winner: S. Tuke (127pts); A. Judge (121); J. Greenwood (117); D. Pond (115); M. Llewellyn-Williams (114); J. Smith (110); R. Gosden (106); V. Gadsby (105); S. Cross (104); T. Burge (101); E. Dymock (101); L. Wharrad (100); J. Straw (99); A. Thomas (97); C. Osmond (97); P. Healy (93); J. Gosden (91); J. Glyn (91); L. Thompson (90); S. Allen (90); D. Caporn (90); M. Town (86); A. O'Connor (79); and B. Gosden (76).
(Ratings began at 100)

Himley Hall: 30 June-1 July The Abnalls: Drama at Himley

Report by Andrew Gregory

Himley, Sunday lunch-time. In the decisive game in the A-class, Jim Potter, for 4-back and peg, attempts to lay a wired rush against Peter Dorke, for 4-back alone. Peter hits anyway to finish, and looks hungrily for his next opponent. 'Sorry Peter', says Ivor Brand. 'I'm off to the pub.'

At that moment, Richard Brand and Roy Weaver abruptly pegged down their game. 'Sorry manager', they say, 'We're off to the pub.'

What is it about Himley that drives players to drink? What is it that induced last year's three class-winners to relinquish their trophies without a fight? What is it that causes much sighing and shaking of heads at the mention of Himley?

'It's lawn 4, that's what it is.' Chris Bennett told me (Chris Bennett was winning croquet tournaments in the 'sixties, and is a man of wisdom, wiles and wit). I supplied him with a further pint, and he elaborated his theory. 'Lawn 4 affects a player's entire technique - not just for that game, but for the whole tournament, possibly forever. And so as players swap lawns, the lawn 4 virus is transmitted even to lawns of reasonable quality.' Indeed the front three lawns are perfectly acceptable, and lawn 5 is remarkable only for the crater adjacent to hoop 6 (aka the pit of penultimate).

I asked Mr Bennett whether he could adduce any evidence to support his theory. 'Well, take young Prescott. In his first game, on lawn 4, he was heard to say 'I'm getting good breaks, just not running any hoops'. By this morning he had realised the flaw in this strategy, and his technique had disintegrated to the extent that in our game, on the third turn he moved his ball six inches.' Lawn 3 is now perfectly acceptable but for a large divot at the end of A-baulk.

We left David Prescott to drown his sorrows and returned to Himley. Needing to win his last game to win the B-class, Chris Bennett found himself on lawn 4. He lost to Helen Hewitson, who was thus runner-up. On the same lawn, Ivor Brand lost to Peter Dorke to settle last and first places in the A-class. David Prescott's other brother-in-law, Richard Brand, fared little better than the rest of the family - though he did have the distinction of beating the class-winner, Mr Dorke.

It may have been the excitement of winning the tournament, or the shock of his first victory over a certain scratch player, but Peter Dorke was not himself this weekend. Not only did he decline to write this report, but also his refereeing lacked his customary authority. He was asked to adjudicate on a wiring, proclaimed 'No lift', and left the lawn. Turning round he found that the player had lifted the ball and made a swift roquet before anyone could forestall.

The ROT was again involved to settle the outcome of a break in which a hoop had been run out of sequence. Having resolved this, Peter was then invited by the unfortunate hoop-omitter to consider the following: 'If McEnroe were a croquet player, he would have forestalled me when my opponent did.' (i.e. immediately before what would have been a tricky hoop stroke, had the break not been invalid). Peter naturally dismissed the notion of such gamesmanship in croquet, but the player was clearly a keen student of McEnroe: he continued in dispute with the referee long and loud.

The weekend weather forecast was 'prolonged showers'. This turned out to mean bouts of rain heavy enough to warrant putting on



WI members attending a Croquet Demonstrators course on the banks of the Menai Straits in May this year. There are now four WI groups playing regularly in North Wales, and a club has recently been formed at Llanfairfechan.

waterproofs, and short enough to render this exercise pointless once complete. This was also true in reverse of the bouts of sunshine. A tip on tournament etiquette here: when engaged in protracted donning and doffing of waterproofs, please do not leave two balls and your mallet in front of the hoop that the double-banker wishes to approach.

The innocent and admirably restrained victim of this and other incidents mentioned above was Heather Pritchard, who kept her composure throughout to win the B-class.

Six of the ten C-class competitors came from Southport. One of these, Ernest Dalley, would have won the event had he not been so chivalrous as to lose to his wife Margaret by one on time. Instead he came third on points behind two Staffordshire players, Mike Hawthorne and the winner Robert Owen, a 15 year old who attends Wolverhampton Grammar School.

I trust that Robert, Heather and Peter will fail to follow their predecessors' precedent, and turn up next year. I certainly shall, for Himley

is nowhere near as bad as its reputation - though I didn't actually play on lawn 4.

RESULTS

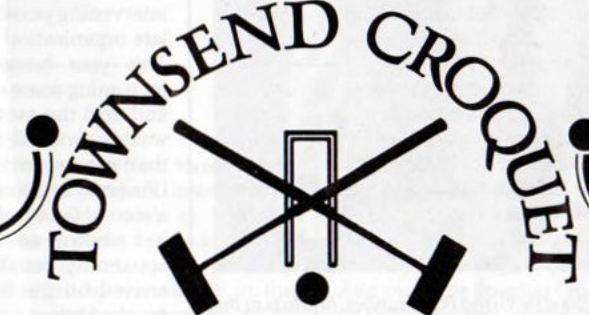
A-Class
(All-play-all: advanced play)
4 wins: P.J. Dorke
3 wins: A. Gregory (runner-up), A. Judge, and J. Potter.
2 wins: R. Weaver, R. Brand, and I. McClelland.
1 win: I. Brand.

B-Class

(All-play-all: Level play)
4 wins: Miss H. Pritchard (winner), Miss H. Hewitson (runner-up).
3 wins: C.G. Bennett.
2 wins: Miss A. O'Connor, and M. Shepherd.
0 wins: D. Prescott.

C-Class

(All-play-all: Handicap play)
4 wins: R. Owen (winner), M. Hawthorne (runner-up), and E. Dalley.
3 wins: Mrs M. Dalley.
2 wins: Mrs M. Sweeney, B. Claye, R. Bloome, and Mrs A. Rimmer.
1 win: Mrs J. Taylor and Mrs P. Lewis.



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Tournament Reports

Hurlingham: May The Varsity Match 1990

Report by Jonathan Collis

It is perhaps one of the primary functions of a University to enable people to make connections. Connections not simply in terms of railway stations - important though they are - but in the sense of pulling together apparently disparate strands in one's experience into one coherent whole. The temptation to link together the Varsity Match and the World Cup is very strong. The setting - Hurlingham - was, admittedly much more salubrious, the fans fewer and more docile, and, perhaps crucially there was no alcohol ban on



Marjorie Boyd (left) and Pam Hughes, finalists in this year's one-ball competition at Loughborough Summer School. Marjorie won by one point after a most exciting match.

BRIAN MACMILLAN

Brian Macmillan retires as Administrative Secretary of the Croquet Association on 31st December 1990 after seven years devoted service to croquet and croquet players. His considerable commercial skills have been applied with equal success to the recruitment of new members and to sharply increasing the sales of croquet literature and equipment from the CA office. It is no exaggeration to say that a significant part of the recent progress we have made is due to him.

Brian's warmth and enthusiasm have won him a wide circle of friends and I know that many Associates have asked if they may make a contribution to mark his retirement. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to invite all those who would like to contribute to send their cheques to Alan Oldham at Terriers Green House, Terriers, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 5AJ. We intend to present Brian with his retirement gift at a function held at Hurlingham before Christmas.

Stephen Mulliner
Chairman.

match day.

Occurring as it does during Cambridge in May Week, this is possibly just as well. Nevertheless, James Carlisle, last year's Cambridge captain and winner of an alcoholic 'newt' competition - or so I read in 'Croquet' - got down to work at 10.15 and swiftly finished off his triple peel against Mike Ainley-Walker without any liquid refreshment at all, and then nipped off to watch the cricket.

So, one up to Cambridge, but an injection of legs, as Bobby Robson would have put it, then gave Oxford one point after another - Mike Bithell went down to Tony Whyte, Jonathan Collis, Plaza-Toro fashion, led his team as captain from behind by losing to Robin Brown and, in an all Old Colcestrian match Graham Budd lost narrowly to Peter Turner. The crowd was not impressed and neither was the weather. Spirits lifted when Justin Goddard appeared to be on the point of snatching a point back for the light Blues, but when he clanged in rover Michael O'Shaughnessy tore victory from the

maw of defeat and won by 3. Could Oxford win the last game and disprove the old adage 'The Varsity Match is a game of two halves' by being 4 up with 3 to play? But plucky Guy Willard put the boot in and defeated Nigel Williams by one.

Half-time gave the chance for the players to suck a few lemons, or, as in most cases, have some lunch. Even our esteemed referee, Richard Hilditch, picked up the tension in the air. There was everything to play for, and the doubles would sort out the men from the boys, and not a moment too soon. Lengthy consultations produced an Oxford substitution and strategic doubles pairings; unfortunately the Cambridge No 2 pair, Collis and Bithell were, despite some gallant rearguard action, promptly defeated by Whyte and Turner. It was all over, though Cambridge retrieved the last two games. An honourable 5-4 to Oxford, repeating the score-line of the previous two years. It could have gone either way, but when the final whistle blew it was a victory for croquet.

Oxford: 18-19 June Inter-Universities tournament revived at Oxford

Report by Tony Whyte

The Tournament returned from a four year break. Oxford University had kept entering teams for the intervening years but because of low entries or too late organisation the event had not taken place. This year however, with the sole intent of reclaiming some of the silverware, they organised and held the event with the challenge that they would provide all the teams if required. Fortunately that was not totally necessary. Joining Durham University was Nottingham, with Oxford producing a second team to fill the fourth place. St. Andrews had shown an interest but, like Cambridge, apparently couldn't get organised. Nottingham arrived on the Sunday night and were illicitly sneaked into a couple of Queen's College rooms.

The range of experience fielded by Nottingham was fairly extreme: two beginners, a 14 and an under-21 GB player, Russell Collighan, off -1. The Durham team arrived at 9am on the first morning of play (unlike either of the Oxford ones). Had they really got up in the early hours to start their trek? No; they had kipped in Birmingham.

The hieroglyphics on the Club hut representing who was to play whom made the Prichard Rainbow Swiss system look like kids stuff. Even the manager, Ian Plummer, was seen scratching his head over it - mainly when players chose where they wanted to play rather than where they were told. It was finally deciphered that in the team event Oxford I were to play Nottingham, and Oxford II were to play Durham, with three lots of doubles and two singles. As Mars bars were washed down with Coke (I thought we were students!), the waterproofs came out. Under grey clouds Oxford I only conceded one game to Nottingham (and guess who was playing that one!) The Oxford University Croquet Club is sponsored by a most popular local restaurant - 'Browns'. As most of us headed for a complimentary Browns tea of cappuccino/Earl Grey with cucumber sandwiches/scones/muffins (the student image looking ever more doubtful), Durham snatched defeat from the jaws of victory in two games, both won +1 on time by Oxford II.

In the evening the Inter-Universities truly came

alive with a game of 'Pass-Out' at Queens to celebrate the birthday of organiser and President-elect, Steve Gardner. We discovered next morning that champagne, Pimms and cheap lager don't mix too well. Despite this, Russell Collighan set his triple peel to seal the Singles championship against the champions from the other Universities' teams. Not surprisingly in the Team Event final when Oxford I played Oxford II, Oxford won. We were pleased to have Alan Oldham, CA Treasurer and Vice-Chairman, to present the prizes; Russell receiving the Hamilton-Miller Trophy and Oxford I (as planned) winning the Edmund-Reeve Universities Challenge Cup. Alan summed up the proceedings and expressed the hope that the Inter-Universities would continue and flourish in the years to come. We'll all drink (Coke) to that!

RESULTS

British Students' Team Championship

(3 doubles and 2 singles per match)

Semi-Finals

Oxford I bt Nottingham 4-1; Oxford II bt Durham 3-2

Final

Oxford I bt Oxford II 5-0

Play-Off for 3rd place

Durham bt Nottingham 4-1

British Students' Open Championship

(Hamilton-Miller Trophy)

Semi-Finals

R.J. Collighan (Nottingham) bt A. Watts-Tobin (Durham) +15; R. Brown (Oxford I) bt G. Abraham (Oxford II) +10.

Final

R.J. Collighan bt R. Brown +12.

Russell Collighan, Nottingham University, is the holder of the Hamilton-Miller Singles Trophy.

Teams

Durham: Alex Watts-Tobin, James Allen, Michael Rock, and Martin Delap.

Oxford I: Tony Whyte, Robin Brown, Michael O'Shaughnessy, and Steve Gardner.

Nottingham: Russell Collighan, Patrick Rowley, Craig Vincent, and Lee Diesnik.

Oxford II: Geren Abraham, Des Burley, Ian Glover, Russ Mould, Michael Porter, and Ben Hutchison.

Aussie Obsessed

From Gina Pellegrini

Despite my limited acquaintanceship, it would appear to me that the world of Croquet has rather more than its fair share of colourful characters. Some seem to have been around for centuries, but there are relative newcomers who are bringing flair and enthusiasm to a game whose popularity is increasing rapidly.

I had the occasion to meet one of the latter recently at Woking and thought that readers of 'Croquet' might be as fascinated as I was to hear the story of a charming Australian who is totally obsessed with the game. His love affair with Croquet makes my affection for the game seem like just a trifling interest!

Col. A.T. (Tony) Hall hails from the Canberra Croquet Club. He first swung a mallet on 5th November 1989 and has played almost every day since then. He is now on a handicap of five.

Tony worked in England from 1959 to 1962 at Shrivenham and lived in the Old Rectory at Coleshill. There was a full set of Croquet equipment there but no copy of the rules. Although he was intrigued, he was only shown how to play golf croquet, thought it a boring game, and declined to try it.

Croquet in China

By Allen Parker (Parkstone)

(The following are abstracts from an article entitled 'Croquet Now Popular' by Huang Zhiling, that appeared in an English Language Chinese Paper. I am indebted to James Mays, who provided a copy of the article - Allen Parker)

.....On weekends, people living in the Shijingshan District of Beijing often see ten old women playing croquet on the vacant lots in front of or behind the Jinding Street Neighbourhood Committee building. But they might not believe that a croquet team consisting of these ordinary-looking women has defeated all its rival teams, most of whom are from government organisations, scientific research institutions, municipal colleges, and factories and enterprises. It has won the title of the First Beijing Old Women's Violet Cup Croquet match, which was played on International Women's Day (March 8th).

.....The ten women are members of the Jinding Street Old Women's Croquet Team which was set up by the Jinding Street Neighbourhood Committee in April 1986. Their ages range from 53 to 62. Five of the ten team members are also members of the Jinding Street Neighbourhood Committee.

.....After learning that croquet is beneficial to older people, the

However, last August he happened to be staying at Milton Park, formerly the home and country park of the Anthony Horderns family (Anthony Horderns used to be a large Sydney department store) but now converted into a magnificent country hotel. Tony says it's reputed to have the best food in Australia and he was staying there for a gourmet weekend.

They had a croquet lawn there but it was in very bad condition. A lady from the Manly Croquet Club in Sydney was staying there too and explained the rules to Tony. He then felt challenged and curious to learn more. Enthused, he went back to Canberra and sought out the only club there. It had three lawns and was situated outside the old Canberra Hotel (recently upgraded and now a 6-star hotel). Unfortunately, all the lawns were being top dressed at the time, so Tony was still unable to play.

He did, however, write away for a copy of the rules of Association Croquet, read them and learnt them! He also read Solomon's book on Croquet and the Australian Coaching Manual. So when he arrived on 5th November for a coaching course he already knew the rules.

On that day he swung a mallet and hit a croquet ball for the first time

Jinding Subdistrict Office in charge of elderly people's affairs gave the Jinding Street Neighbourhood committee croquet equipment in March 1986....At the time some people in our neighbourhood who knew nothing about croquet, stood watching us and called us jokingly 'The Truly Great Old Ladies', for they thought that old women should only do housework, take care of grandchildren in their spare time, or live in ease and comfort', said Feng Yinmei, head of the Jinding Street Neighbourhood Committee as well as the Jinding Street Old Women's Croquet Team.

.....The Jinding Subdistrict office also supported the team. When the Subdistrict Office was informed that Shijingshan District would play an old women's croquet match in early February this year, they mobilised the team to enter its name for the match, made sportswear for every team member and sent an experienced coach to the team..... Meeting the subdistrict's expectations, the team placed third among the nine teams participating. To honour the ten team members, the Jinding Subdistrict Office held a victory meeting after the match.

.....On February 14th it was announced that the First Beijing Old Women's Violet Cup Croquet match

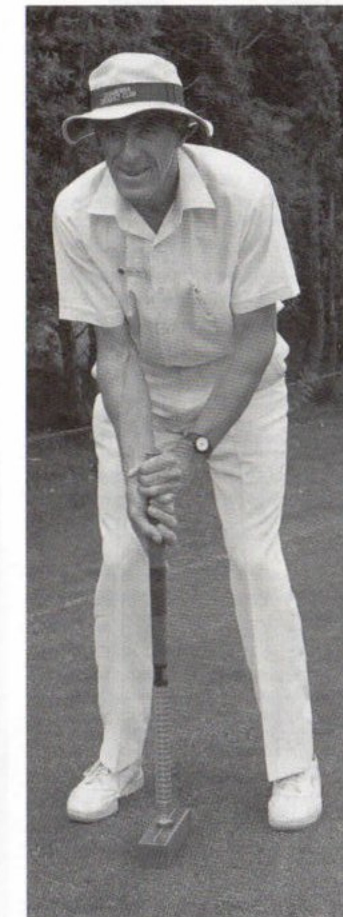
ever.

I asked Tony if it was true what I'd heard about him; that he'd played every day since then. He replied that regretfully he'd missed four days. I presumed that this had been at Christmas - but no - he had played Christmas Day and Boxing Day, but had not been able to play for two days whilst motoring to Melbourne and two days when driving back from there. The longest he's played in one day is from 7.45 in the morning until it was too dark to play.

Tony's initial handicap was sixteen - the highest they have in Australia. Two weeks later he was brought down to seven, two months later to six and on the first of April to five. He hopes to be much lower by the end of the season. (My good friend, John Haigh, has played him and reckons he's already lower than a five).

Tony was in England as part of a six week holiday. He said everyone was most hospitable and he didn't miss a single day's croquet whilst he was here (playing sometimes at Woking and sometimes at Hurlingham). He enjoys the game enormously.

As Tony says, he's 'desperate for croquet!'



Tony Hall - making tracks for the top!

Obituary

Mrs Alix Fotiadi

Alix joined the Bowdon Croquet Club in 1939. She was appointed to the Committee in 1948, became one of the Club Officers in 1961 and President in 1971. When ill-health forced her to relinquish the position of President in 1981, she was made an honorary life member of the Club.

Very active in promoting the interests of the Club, she played tournament croquet both at the Club and at other venues such as Buxton, Budleigh Salterton, and especially Eastbourne, where she spent two weeks every summer.

She was invited to play in the Ladies Field Cup in 1954, 1969, and 1973, achieving 6th place on 2 occasions. She was the runner-up in the 1956 Northern Championship, the last year it was held until it was revived at Bowdon in 1979, when she was once again a competitor.

She maintained her interest in croquet until the end of her life, visiting the Club only 10 days before her death at the age of 89. She will be sadly missed.

Sheila Black.

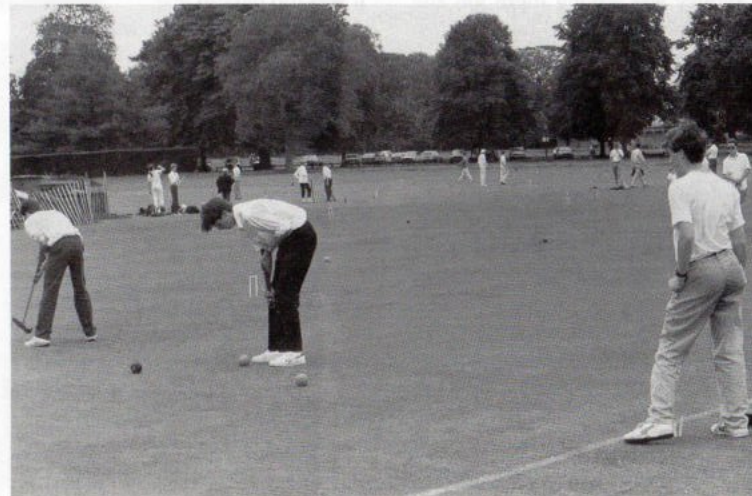
New Associates

- R.R. French Bentley
- Mrs R.R. French Bentley
- J.L. Firstein Bowdon
- J.M. Quayle Bowdon
- S. Dicken Bristol
- J.F. Perry Budleigh
- G. Davies Cambridge
- A.M. Cripps Chelmsford
- C. Boon Chester
- V. Powers Colchester
- S. Jones Colworth
- Mrs J. Ashton Cranleigh
- I.E. Dearsley Cranleigh
- Mrs A.W. Dearsley Cranleigh
- J.E. Grimshaw Dyffryn
- E.B. Marsh Dyffryn
- W.E. Williams Guildford
- Mrs W.E. Williams Guildford
- G.J. Bennett Harrow Oak
- B. Whiteley Harrow Oak
- J. Bennett Harrow Oak
- J.A. Burgin Havering
- Mrs G. Burgin Havering
- J.S. Dyer High Wycombe
- M.P. Hopwood High Wycombe
- P. Day Hunstanton
- L. Blauston Hurlingham
- Mrs L. Blauston Hurlingham
- C.J.N. Holmes Hurlingham
- Mrs K.M. Holmes Hurlingham
- D.J. Owen Hurlingham
- Mrs A. Playfair Hurlingham
- Mrs C. Wodtice Hurlingham
- P. Eardley Ipswich
- W.G.M. Buckland Newport
- I.J. Gatenby Newport
- W.J. Tapper Newport
- N. Bircumshaw Nottingham
- Mrs C. Bircumshaw Nottingham
- R. Blackburn Nottingham
- G. Fowler Nottingham
- I.M. Hill Nottingham
- Mrs R.Y. Lelliot Preston Lawns
- Mrs J.M. Hawkins Ramsgate
- Miss B.M. Kirby Ramsgate
- Miss P.M. Wood Ramsgate
- J.M. McKenna St Albans
- Miss M. Webb Southwick
- A. Sherratt Stafford
- Miss M.F. Birley Surbiton
- Miss E.J. Adams Tunbridge Wells
- B.E.A. Woodmansee Tunbridge Wells
- Mrs B.E.A. Woodmansee Tunbridge Wells
- J. Campbell Vine Road
- A. James Vine Road
- S.M. Littlejohns Vine Road
- R. Steer Vine Road
- M.J. Duffy Woking
- Mrs J.E. Duffy Woking
- M.J. Shepherd Worcester
- Miss P. Franks Worthing
- Miss B. Hollis Worthing
- Mrs P. Pomeroy Worthing
- A.H.R. Craxton Worthing
- J. Absalom Wrest Park
- Mrs J. Absalom Wrest Park
- Mrs E. Appleby Wrest Park
- Major R.W. Bennett Wrest Park
- Mrs R.W. Bennett Wrest Park
- E. Bevan Wrest Park
- M.A. Blundell Wrest Park
- R.W. Brotherhood Wrest Park
- Mrs S.A. Brotherhood Wrest Park
- R.J. Brown Wrest Park
- Mrs J.P. Buckle Wrest Park
- P. Carroll Wrest Park
- V. Chilcott Wrest Park
- B. Chilcott Wrest Park
- Rev Canon P.C. Collins Wrest Park
- Major F.N. Coop Wrest Park
- P.E. Duke-Frost Wrest Park
- Miss X.E. Croxstick Wrest Park
- Mrs L. Goslett Wrest Park
- J.G. Grevatt Wrest Park
- Mrs J.G. Grevatt Wrest Park
- A. Haywood Wrest Park
- M.J. Hibbs Wrest Park
- E.G. Hill Wrest Park
- C. Jones Wrest Park
- S.C.D.L. Lacey Wrest Park
- Mrs S.C.D.L. Lacey Wrest Park
- D.L. Mears Wrest Park
- Mrs D.L. Mears Wrest Park
- Miss C.M. Melvin Wrest Park
- J. Mirwitch Wrest Park
- J.D. O'Brien Wrest Park
- K. Pascall Wrest Park
- Mrs J. Pascall Wrest Park
- T.H.A. Picking Wrest Park
- Mrs H.M. Picking Wrest Park
- I. Richards Wrest Park

- Mrs E. Richards 13 to 12
 - A.K. Sam 14 to 13
 - A. Skinner 13 to 12
 - C.M. Smith 12 to 11
 - D.R. Smith 13 to 12
 - P.J. Smith 15 to 14
 - Mrs R. Smith 16 to 15
 - J.M. Sutherland 13 to 12
 - Mrs D.F. Sutherland 13 to 12
 - P. Syborn 13 to 12
 - Col.D.L. Sylvester-Bradley 13 to 12
 - G. Willard 13 to 12
 - J.D. Cooper 5 to 4
 - M.E. Woodmansee 5 to 4
 - G. Kaiser 15 to 13D11
 - O. Schonhuth 18 to 17D15
 - R. Bowns 18 to 17D15
 - Mrs B. Commons 6 1/2 to 7 1/2
- (Total: 119)

- W. Arliss 5 to 6
 - Mrs K.G. Bright 15 to 14
 - Mrs A.V. Camroux 6 to 7
 - Mrs H.G.R. Catten 14 to 16
 - J.E. Simpson 9 to 8
 - Mrs E.M. Goldsmith 14* to 12
 - Mrs P. Howell 20* to 20
 - Mrs L.J. Nash 1 to 1/2
 - J.D. Porcas 1 1/2 to 1
 - Mrs P. Wain 1 1/2 to 1
- Cheltenham: 15 June**
- D. Coates 5 to 4
 - W. madams 5 to 4
 - Mrs M. Peebles 15 to 13D11
 - Mrs B. Widdows 18 to 17D15
 - J.R.P. Lansdown 18 to 17D15
 - Mrs T. Noel-Smith 6 1/2 to 7 1/2
 - Mrs E. Sturdy 6 to 8

- Mrs E. Taylor-Webb 5 to 6
 - J. Wastell 15 to 14
 - R. Deacon 6 to 7
 - R. Webb 14 to 16
- Southport: 7-8 July**
- A.C. Holgate 9 to 8
 - P. Sharrock 14* to 12
 - Mrs J. Welch 20* to 20
- Oxford: 7-8 July**
- M. Wormald 1 to 1/2
 - I. Plummer 1 1/2 to 1
- Scottish CA: 7-8 July**
- C. Rogers 4 1/2 to 4
 - Ms M. Wright 14 to 16
- Surbiton: 7-8 July**
- D. Pond 9 to 8
 - J. Greenwood 0 to -1/2
 - S. Tuke 2 1/2 to 1 1/2
 - A. Judge 4 to 3 1/2
- Southport: 13 July**
- Mrs B. Haslam 10D9 to 8
 - C.H. Wild 2 to 1 1/2
- Roehampton: 14-15 July**
- M. Llewellyn-Williams 5 1/2 to 5
 - R. Pennant-Jones 4 1/2 to 4
- Surbiton: 22 July**
- D.N.S. Peterson 1/2 to 4
- Ipswich: 22 July**
- N. Jackson 15 to 13
 - Ms C. Heritage 17 to 16
- Parkstone: 22 July**
- M.R. Burrow 13 to 12
 - J. Sheraton-Davis 9 to 8
 - A.A. Stockwell 9 to 8
 - P.M. Walker 14 to 13
- Cheltenham: 23-28 July**
- E. Dymock 6 to 5
 - Mrs B. Madams 15D13 to 13D11
 - A. Potter 7 1/2 to 6
 - J. Ross 1 to 1/2
 - M. Shepherd 7 to 5
 - C. Williams 2 1/2 to 2
 - A. O'Connor 9 to 8
- Southport: 27-29 July**
- A.C. Holgate 8 to 5
 - R. Probyn 5 to 3
 - D. Reekie 6 to 5
 - J. Simon 7 to 5
 - C. Haslam -1/2 to -1
 - D. McCormick -1 to -1 1/2
 - A.J. Saurin 0 to -1/2
 - A.T. Saurin 0 to -1/2
 - J. Simon 5 to 4
- Hurlingham: 28 July-4 August**
- M. Coles 4 1/2 to 3 1/2
 - T.G. Russell 2 1/2 to 2
 - R.T. Stephens 6 to 5
 - G.A. Wombwell 7 to 6
 - S. Allen 8 to 7
 - S. Cawdell 7 to 6
 - Mrs C. Osmond 8 to 7
 - T. Browne 2 to 1 1/2
 - M.R. Wormald 1/2 to 0
 - Mrs R.T. Stephens 14D12 to 16D14
 - Mrs C.G. Greig 14D12 to 16D14
- East Riding: 28-29 July**
- N. Cordingley 8 to 6 1/2
- East Riding: 30 July**
- G. Chamberlin 10 to 9
 - K. Hutton 6 1/2 to 6
- Budleigh Salterton: 31 July**
- A.J.W. Addis 9 to 8
 - A.J. Betts 6 1/2 to 6
 - I.D. Birdseye 13D11 to 12D10
 - Miss M. Goodhart 14D12 to 13D11
 - R.H. Lee 6 1/2 to 8
 - J. Perry 13D11 to 12D10
 - Mrs M. Scaddan 15D13 to 14D12
 - R.A. Scaddan 12D10 to 10
 - G.E. Webb 8 to 7 1/2
- Bowdon: 31 July**
- H. Taylor 18 to 16
 - P. Walker 12 to 11
- Southport: 3-5 August**
- J. Hawkins 7 to 6 1/2
 - P. Death 1/2 to 0
 - Mrs C. Lewis 5 to 4
 - Mrs M. Dalley 11 to 10
- Colchester: 3-5 August**
- P. Eardley 16 to 14
- Cheltenham: 3-12 August**
- M.J. Ranshaw 6 to 4
 - S.M. Daddo-Langlois 9 to 7
 - Mrs B. Widdows 17D15 to 16D14
 - Miss A. Hausherr 18D16 to 17D15



Play in progress at Himley Hall during the Schools Regional Final.

Deaths

With great regret we record the following deaths:
 Mrs A. Fotiadi
 Mrs P. Solomon

Handicap Alterations

- Surbiton: 10-13 May**
- D.C. Caporn 3 to 4
 - Mrs C. Osmond 10 to 9
 - H.W. Smorritt 4 1/2 to 4
 - A. Thomas 5 to 5 1/2
 - M. Llewellyn-Williams 6 to 5 1/2
 - D.N.S. Peterson -1/2 to 1/2
- Ryde: 31 May**
- Mrs M. Robinson 10 to 9
- Ryde: 4-9 June**
- R. Fewtrell 10 to 9
 - Mrs F. Fewtrell 16 to 16D14
 - J. Bourn 17* to 16D14
 - Mrs C. Bourn 17* to 16D14
 - P. Kennerley 6 to 5 1/2
 - Mrs D. Latham 5 to 4 1/2
 - Mrs V.Y. Tompkinson 7 to 7 1/2
- Roehampton: 4-9 June**
- E. Dymock 8 to 6
 - Mrs C. Osmond 9 to 8
- Harrow Oak: 9-10 June**
- M.R. Firth 17 to 14
 - G. Youd 10 to 9
- Woking: 10 June**
- J. Haigh 2 1/2 to 4
- Ipswich: 11 June**
- P. Alnutt 20 to 17
 - Mrs C. Steward 8 to 7
 - L. Palmer 2 to 1 1/2
 - S. Comish 1 1/2 to 1
 - M. French -1/2 to -1
 - M. Sawyer 18 to 17
- Southwick: June**
- Miss J. Sanderson 16 to 14
 - Mrs H. Whitney 20
 - Mrs J. Huddleston 20
 - Mrs J. Weir 14 to 13
- Southwick: 12-14 June**
- Mrs P. Allanson 12 to 11

Hunstanton: 16-18 June

- D. Turner 6 to 5
 - L. Robinson 20* to 18
 - Ms K. Yonge 20 to 19
 - J. Sturdy 5 to 6 1/2
- Ipswich: 17 June**
- J. Williams 7 to 6
- Edgbaston: 17 June**
- K. Ruston 14 to 13
 - I. McClelland 3 to 2 1/2
 - C. Bennett 6 1/2 to 6
- Leicester: 18th June**
- D.M. White 8 to 7
 - G.P. Yates 12D10 to 11D10
- Parkstone: 18-23 June**
- J. Simmonds 12D10 to 10D8
 - D. Harrison-Wood 2 1/2 to 2
 - Mrs E.B. Wilton 12 to 12D11
- Budleigh Salterton: 22 June**
- Miss A.M. Goodhart 16D13 to 14D12
 - Miss J. Goodhart 13D12 to 11D10
 - G.E. Webb 10 to 8
- Himley: 30 June-1 July**
- R. Owen 10 to 9
 - M. Hawthorne 14 to 13
 - Mrs E. Bottomley 13 to 12
 - B. Claye 12 to 10
 - K. Fennell 11 to 10
- Wrest Park: 1 July**
- M. Hammalev 15 to 12
- Southwick: 2-7 July**
- R. Best 5 1/2 to 5
 - M. Cooperman 5 1/2 to 5
- Southport: 5 July**
- Adrian Saurin 1 to 0
- Wrest Park: 6-8 July**
- B.A. Keen 0 to 3
- Southwick: 7th July**
- W. Arliss 12 to 9
 - J.D. Porcas 12 to 11
 - C. Rudland 20 to 18
 - Mrs P. Rudland 20 to 18
- Bowdon: 7th July**
- A. Linton 10 to 9
 - K. McCombe 12 to 14
 - A.C. Peterson 6 1/2 to 6
 - M.H. Sandler 2 to 3

Ardingly: 4-11 August

- Ms G. Burgin 13 to 12
 - M. Beard 15 to 14
 - P. Mayers 15 to 14
 - Ms M. Regan 16 to 14
 - Ms P. Hose 16 to 15
 - Ms J. Absalom 17 to 15
 - J. Absalom 20 to 18
 - C. Thursfield 18 to 16
 - Ms A. Thursfield 18 to 16
- Woking: 5 August**
- T.A. Backhouse 11 to 10
 - Mrs A. Huxley 20
 - Mrs E. McKenzie-Gray 18
 - Mrs G. Pellegrini 14 to 12
- Budleigh Salterton: 6-11 August**
- M. O'N Domecq 6
 - C.W. Hitchcock 12D11
 - A.J. Symons 0 to -1/2
 - M. Granger-Brown 3 to 2
 - M.D. Town 4 to 3 1/2
 - D.J. Wright 12 to 10
 - D.A. Prescott 8 to 6
 - Miss M. Hilton 16D14 to 14D12
- Pendle: 11 August**
- V. George 8 to 6 1/2
- Roehampton: 11-12 August**
- J. Dyer 5
- Ipswich: 12 August**
- Ms C. Pearce 8 to 9
 - L. Palmer 1 to 1/2
 - J.O. Walters -1 1/2 to -2
- Carrickmines: 12-13 August**
- S. Lyddiard 2 1/2 to 1 1/2
 - J. Meads 1/2 to 2
- Edinburgh: 13-14 August**
- Mrs F. Fewtrell 16 to 14
 - B. Townsend 13 to 12
 - Ms C. Rowe 7 to 7 1/2
 - C. van Griethuysen 3 to 2 1/2
- Bowdon: 15-19 August**
- D.B. Maugham -1 1/2 to -2

Extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Saturday, 21st April 1990.

The Chairman, Dr M. Murray, being absent in Florida, the Vice-Chairman, Mr Mulliner took the chair. He welcomed the new members of Council elected at the Annual General Meeting, namely Mrs Croker and Messrs. S.D. Jones and T.J. Haste.

Administration Secretary
 Mr Mulliner reported on behalf of the Executive Committee that 3 candidates had been interviewed for the post. The candidate who had been offered the appointment had had to decline it for personal reasons. Mr Mulliner warmly thanked Mr Macmillan for agreeing to remain in his post until the end of 1990. The Committee would continue to seek a suitable candidate.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 1990/91
 Professor Neal proposed and Mr Hope seconded that Mr Mulliner be elected as Chairman of Council. Mr Mulliner then proposed and Mr Caporn seconded that Mr Oldham be elected as Vice-Chairman. Both propositions were carried unanimously.

Election of Selection Committee
 Mr Mulliner announced that there were seven candidates for five vacancies and that a secret ballot would be held. Mr Hope and Mr Macmillan were asked to act as

scrutineers. It was reported at the end of the meeting that the following had been elected: Messrs Aspinall, Lamb, Mulliner, Murray, and Neal.

Election of Chairmen of Standing Committees

Mr Mulliner tabled a list of committee memberships and nominations for the chairmanship of each committee other than Handicap Appeal and Selection. There being no other nominations, the election of each Chairman was approved.

- Coaching: W.E. Lamb
- Development: S.O. Jones
- Equipment: T.J. Haste
- F&GP: C.J. Irwin
- Handicap: W.E. Lamb
- International: S.N. Mulliner
- Laws: S.N. Mulliner
- Publicity: C.P. Townsend
- Tournament: G.N. Aspinall

Longman Cup be the same as for the Mary Rose and Inter-Club competitions.

Reports of Committees and Officers

(1) Tournament Committee
 The report was given by Mr Aspinall. The World Championship qualifying competitions will be held as follows: 12-13 July at Surbiton (for non-GBI players); 3-5 August at Surbiton, and 10-12 August at Southport. It was unanimously agreed that Jacques balls should be used at these events. The report was approved.

(2) Laws Committee

Mr Mulliner drew attention in particular to the recommendation of the International Laws Meeting that Official Rulings be adopted as an official adjunct to the Laws. He gave

Harrogate and good prospects for the establishment of several smaller clubs in 1990.

(f) The 1991 World Championship would be held in England provided that Continental Airlines continued its sponsorship.

(g) There have been 120 applications for places on Croquet Demonstrator courses in 1990.

(4) Administration Secretary

Mr Macmillan reported: Mrs Betty Macmillan of the Parkstone Club has recently died. He asked Council to record in the Minutes his gratitude to Mr Bill Gillott for his considerable assistance with the office computer.

He tabled the names of 20 candidates for election to membership of the CA. Their election was approved.

Any Other Business

Mr Mulliner announced that Mr Shaw had decided to retire from Council and that there were now three vacancies. It was agreed to co-opt Mr David Croker, the husband of Mrs Croker, on the understanding that he would not be able to serve on the F&GP Committee. It was also agreed to delegate to the Executive Committee the co-opting of Mr Bill Gillott and to fill the 3rd vacancy.

Mr Gaunt expressed his concern about the Southwick Club's redevelopment proposals which would entail the loss of three lawns. Mr Mulliner said that he was fully acquainted with the background and substance of the proposals and took the view that the realisation of a significant sum was essential to give the club a chance of remaining viable. A well-appointed and successful 8-lawn club was of much more value to the CA than a moribund 12-lawn club. Mr Solomon, who is also President of the Southwick Club, agreed.

TAIL PIECE

From Ian Bond

A little problem for you to solve in those long winter evenings ahead. The order of play for the Ladies Fixture (see page 14 of the 1990 Fixture Book) fails to ensure that no player is required to play consecutive games on the same lawn (three do so between rounds 5 and 6); puts 5 games on the same lawns in both series; and gives 2 players only 2 games on 1 of the 3 lawns.

Is there a solution to the problem which remedies all these deficiencies and preserves the sequence of matches in the two rounds (remember too that no player should be deemed to win the toss for more than two games consecutively)? If not, what is the best that can be achieved?
 Answers, on a post card please, to the Chairman of the Tournaments Committee.



Dr Michael Llewellyn-Williams winner, of the 'B level' Advanced Tournament at Roehampton Club 14-15 July 1990.

Executive Committee

Mr Mulliner proposed that the Executive Committee for 1990/91 should consist of the Chairman of Council, the Vice-Chairman (who is also the CA Treasurer) and the Chairman of the F&GP Committee, plus Professor Neal, former Chairman of the International Committee and Mr Townsend, Chairman of the Publicity Committee. It was agreed unanimously to co-opt Professor Neal and Mr Townsend pending amendments to Standing Orders at the next Council meeting.

Notices of Motion

Mr Gaunt gave notice of the following motion:
 THAT the games format for the

notice that three changes to the Laws would be proposed at the next Council meeting. The report was approved.

(3) Development Officer

Mr Hudson reported: (a) The Forward Plan for 1991-1994 sought an annual grant of £45,000 from the Sports Council.

(b) Our membership target for end-1990 was 2,200.

(c) He was seeking a sponsor for the 1991 Garden Croquet Classic to give the event greater publicity.

(d) He was planning to organise more Indoor Croquet Tournaments in 1991.

(e) There is a strong possibility that a 4-lawn club will be established at